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Republic Leaders Show Mixed Response to Eurasian Union

LD0204203094

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 2 April carries the "Novosti" newscast presented by Sergey Medvedev.

Over video clips of past CIS summit meetings and President Nazarbayev's visit to Russia, Medvedev says President Nursultan Nazarbayev's three-day official visit, "did yield one surprise, namely the suggestion to set up in place of the CIS, which is not working, a new state association with a single parliament, a council of defense ministers, common borders, and a supranational currency. Evidently understanding that the ground had not been prepared for any discussion of these topics in Russia and its sovereign neighbors, Nazarbayev described his initiative as not a formal proposal, but just an idea. This is why it was aired not at the official negotiations in the Kremlin, but on the second day of his visit, at a meeting with the intelligentsia in Moscow State University—though doubtless Kazakhstan's leader could not but have shared his new ideas with Boris Yeltsin during the talks. It is interesting why Nazarbayev decided, without mentioning the Russian president's reaction, to appeal to public opinion.

"The idea has been voiced, and it is giving rise to more questions than answers. The Russian Foreign Ministry, for instance, is unclear what would happen if a Eurasian Union were set up in place of the CIS, which has just obtained the status of observer at the United Nations."

Medvedev points out the principles underlying the European Union cannot simply be transferred to a Eurasian version, and the right of veto, which it is suggested each sovereign member state would have, is unlikely to meet with acceptance. Given the level of the current disagreements in the CIS, such a right could paralyze any new collective body, and it would hardly be possible to reach agreement on anything.

Surveying the reactions to the new proposal for a Eurasian Union in CIS capitals, Medvedev switches to an interview with President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine. The idea, President Kravchuk said, was discussed when the CIS was set up, and is still being developed within the context of the CIS. "But," Kravchuk says, "I do not think we should disband the CIS today. I believe that if the task of setting up a Eurasian Union is set, the CIS should prepare the conditions for this." "All this must be studied very attentively" and properly prepared, President Kravchuk says.

Over a photograph of President Akayev, Medvedev says, "President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan was one of the few to give immediate support to the idea of setting up a Eurasian Union. He regards it as promising."

Myacheslaw Gryb, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus, interviewed in the Soviet chamber, said: "I am familiar with the proposals put forward by President Nursultan Nazarbayev. We find them politically interesting, to a certain degree, and without doubt merit attention, a great deal of attention. But in this respect I see that we must, first of all, resolve issues of economic cooperation, of economic integration between our state, the Republic of Belarus, and the member states of the CIS, first and foremost with the Russian Federation. This could be the second stage, because today, as far as I surmise, we are not yet ready to settle this question."

"President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan believes that the CIS's potential is far from exhausted, and it is better to expend one's efforts on making the existing union work than on creating a new one," Medvedev concludes.

Belarus To Mediate Karabakh Settlement in Bishkek

LD0304181794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1715 GMT 3 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—Belarus will act as a mediator in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict at a meeting of Azeri and Armenian parliamentarians scheduled in Bishkek in May. The meeting will be attended by chairman of the Belarusian Parliament, Mechyslaw Hryb. This was declared at a meeting of the Belarusian parliament chairman with a peace-keeping group of the CIS intreparliamentary assembly which arrived in Minsk from Yerevan on Sunday morning, following trips to Baku and Nagorno-Karabakh.

"The arrival of the peace-keeping group in Minsk and a meeting with the head of the Belarusian parliament was not spontaneous," Medetkan Sherimkulov, head of the CIS intreparlaimentary delegation and chairman of the Kyrgyz Parliament, told ITAR-TASS on Sunday night after the delegation returned from Minsk to Moscow. "Belarus is one of active participants of the CIS interparliamentary assembly." He said, according to Sherimkulov, in order to establish peace in the Karabakh region, all CIS countries should be interested in the mediatory mission.

In Sherimkulov's opinion, Belarus has concrete proposals which will be discussed in Bishkek early in May. Commenting on the results of the visit by the CIS interparliamentary peace-keeping delegation to the Caucasus, Sherimkulov said that heads of the Azeri and Armenian Parliaments agreed to take part in the Bishkek meeting. Sherimkulov did not rule out the possibility of Karabakh officials taking part in the meeting.

Shermkulov said that the main condition for the settlement of the Karabakh crisis is "a total ceasefire in the zone of the conflict." Sherimklov said that CIS parliamentarians are interested in the solution of the problem of the political status of Nagorno-Karabakh, removal of blockade, restoration of Karabakh infrastructure,

including a gas pipe-line, railways and highways and the return of refugees to their homes.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about prospects for the participation of CIS peace-keeping forces in the disengagement of warring sides, Sherimkulov pointed out that "we cannot put the responsibility for peace-keeping efforts on Russia alone." "The number of peace-keepers and a degree of participation of CIS peace-keeping units has not been discussed yet," Sherimkulov said. "What is important at the present stage is that all CIS member-states express readiness to promote the establishment of peace in Nagorno-Karabakh," he added.

Russian Commander Views Tajik-Afghan Border Situation

LD0204093494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2348 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Apr— In the long run there will be no groups of Russian border troops in the CIS states. They will be replaced with operational groups consisting of a small number of officers and specialists whose task will be to help the local troops responsible for protecting the border, Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander in chief of the Russian border troops, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent last night on his return from Bishkek.

He said the accords signed in Bishkek have created a legal foundation for Commonwealth citizens serving in Russia's border troops. Over the next few years they will account for 30 to 50 percent of the personnel.

A. Nikolayev said that during his conversation with Kirgiz President Askar Akayev questions of training national cadres were discussed, along with additional measures for strengthening the border between Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan] and Afghanistan. They also worked out a unified border policy. The border troops commander stressed that, as before, his views on ensuring security on the Commonwealth borders coincided with those of President Akayev and other heads of state.

A. Nikolayev said that additional measures aimed at stabilizing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan section of the border would be discussed at a conference of the Commonwealth heads of state scheduled for the middle of April. He expressed his satisfaction at the fact that a government delegation from Tajikistan is to have a meeting in Moscow with opposition leaders. However, in the opinion of the border troops chief commander, a disruption of the dialogue or reluctance on the part of one of the sides to continue it may result in a fresh escalation of tension in Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Baltic Legal Aid Agreement Comes Into Force 3 Apr

WS0404093994 Tallinn ETA in English 0710 GMT 4 Apr 94

[From 4 April HOMMIKULEHT, p 3; "News Bulletin" No. 63/94]

[Text] An agreement on legal aid and legal relations between the three Baltic states came into force on Sunday, April 3. The agreement guarantees the Baltic states citizens the right to appeal to the courts, prosecutors, notaries and other legal institutions of the three member countries. The agreement also concerns legal entities. The agreement was concluded on November 11, 1992 in Tallinn.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Apr

LD0204061294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0526 GMT 2 Apr

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI singles out a draft document "On the Attainment of Civil Accord", handed over by President Boris Yeltsin to the State Duma and Federation Council speakers on Thursday.

In the opinion of presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov, "the principal goal of this agreement among political forces" is to preserve the already existing elements of civil peace in the country.

The newspaper quotes Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin as stating that "immediate prospects for Russia's economic development are moderately optimistic."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) carries a big article in view of the expected signing by government leaders of CIS member-states of an agreement on the mutual recognition of the privileges and guarantees for world war two veterans and the disabled and participants in combat operations on the territories of other states, the families of the fallen servicemen and other categories of persons. The agreement is expected to be signed in mid-April.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports that a number of gangs engaging in criminal activities connected with the search of privatised apartments and their resale have been uncovered in Moscow.

About 9,000 Muscovites, who have been reported missing, could fall victim to those gangs, the newspaper writes referring to the data of Moscow police headquarters as of January 1, 1994. All missing persons on the eve of their disappearance registered documents certifying the privatisation of their apartments.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (independent newspaper) reports a "boom in the illegal production of gold and diamonds" in the country.

The newspaper quotes A. Alexeyev, a staff member of the Russian Interior Ministry's main department for combatting economic crimes, as saying that one can now speak about the existence of a veritable industry in Russia for the illegal production, processing and marketing of gold and diamonds.

Criminals "are busy actively establishing contacts with state machinery officials and foreign counterparts and arranging channels for the 'export'" of Russian valuables", Alexeyev said.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports a statement by U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who began his five-day visit to Moscow on Friday, that he is grateful to Boris Yeltsin for the success of Russian diplomacy in settling the Yugoslav crisis.

At the same time, the newspaper believes, there is no "complete mutual understanding" between the sides, considering the stand of the U.N. chief, who issued an order to launch bombing strikes against the Bosnian Serbs, and the stand of Moscow which, acting virtually alone, prevented that". Neither is the U.N. secretary-general willing to understand Russia's intention to get a U.N. mandate for its peacekeeping force on the territory of the CIS, the newspaper pointed out.

PRAVDA gives prominence to a report on a new party, Russia's Choice, which is being created by former Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar. The newspaper believes that this, in all probability, will be the first party of big bourgeoisie, and predicts that the new party will suffer a setback at future elections.

Reportage on UN Secretary-General's Visit to Moscow

Butrus-Ghali Interviewed Before Visit

PM0104145194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 94 First Edition pp 1, 6

["Exclusive" interview with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali by unidentified RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent, commissioned by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA; date, place not given: "Butrus Butrus-Ghali: I Am Inspired by the Active Efforts of Russian Diplomacy"]

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali arrived on an official visit in Moscow yesterday. He plans to meet with President Boris Yeltsin, the leadership of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma and Federation Council, the foreign and defense ministers, and also with Aleksiy II, patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.

Butrus Butrus-Ghali pointed out that he visited Moscow many times while he was Egyptian foreign minister. This is the second time that he has been to the Russian capital in his capacity as UN secretary general. He said that one of the main aims of his visit to the Russian Federation is to "strengthen direct ties with the country's leadership" and also to help "boost Russia's contribution to UN activity."

Before his arrival he gave an exclusive interview for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Do you support the idea that Russia's efforts to avert and resolve conflict situations on the territory of the former USSR should receive international status? To what extent and in what way is the United Nations Organization prepared to take part in peacekeeping efforts in places like Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, Tajikistan, and the Dniester Region?

[Butrus-Ghali] As for the conflicts that have been unleashed in certain independent states on the territory of the former Soviet Union, the United Nations and the CSCE have agreed on a division of labor with a view to preventing duplication of effort. In accordance with this formula the CSCE has assumed a peacekeeping role in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, in Moldova, and in Georgia—South Ossetia. While the United Nations, on the other hand, has taken the lead with regard to the conflicts in Tajikistan and between Georgia and Abkhazia. You may be aware that the United Nations opened a small mission in Tajikistan in late 1992. My new special envoy to Tajikistan, Ambassador Piriz-Ballon [name as transliterated], recently got the parties to the conflict to agree to meet in Moscow.

A UN observers' mission in Georgia was opened by the Security Council last August. This is the first operation of its kind on the territory of one of the former Soviet republics. My special envoy in Georgia, Ambassador Brunner [name as transliterated], has held several rounds of political talks with representatives of the Georgian Government and the Abkhazians. The Russian Federation is acting as mediator in the Georgian-Abkhazian peace process and my special envoy has received vigorous support from [Russian] Deputy Foreign Minister Pastukhov, President Yeltsin's special envoy in Georgia. We are continuing our efforts to seek an all-embracing solution to this conflict.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Whenever questions of the former USSR's Baltic republics are examined, the United Nations only places emphasis on the Russian troop withdrawal, while Russia underlines its concern over the violation of ethnic minorities' political and civil rights in the Baltics. Do you think that this problem exists and merits the attention of the United Nations?

[Butrus-Ghali] The General Assembly has extended my mediator's mandate with regard to the troop withdrawal from the Baltic republics. Last year my special envoy, Ambassador Tommy Cox, visited Moscow and the three Baltic countries and I reported back to the General Assembly on his information and findings. I am inspired by the recent Latvian-Russian agreement and I hope that the talks between Estonia and Russia, which are expected to resume early in April, will also be completed shortly.

I know that 25 million Russians have ended up outside Russia as a result of the breakup of the former Soviet Union. What is more, I know about the difficulties which Russians living outside their homeland, including in Estonia and Latvia, are experiencing.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] The moves to form a Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina to some extent contravene the peace plan that was agreed with the participation of the UN special envoy, a plan which presupposed creating a confederation of three ethnic states in Bosnia, precisely indicating their territories and borders. Does the United Nations intend to formulate a new initiative for an all-embracing settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in the former Yugoslavia as a whole? How do you see Russia's role in resolving the Yugoslav conflict?

[Butrus-Ghali] I welcome the recent agreement between the Bosnian Muslims and the Bosnian Croats regarding the formation of a federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The cochairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia also welcomed this accord. At the same time I very much hope that representatives of the Bosnian Serbs will take part in the talks to find a settlement to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the near future. The Conference on the Former Yugoslavia will continue its work since it is the Security Council's approved means of securing an all-embracing settlement to all the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia.

I am inspired by Russian diplomacy's vigorous creative efforts with regard to the former Yugoslavia. In particular, I welcome the recent talks between representatives of Serbian Krajina and the Croatian Government that took place in Russia's embassy in Zagreb under the auspices of Deputy Foreign Minister Churkin. I am grateful to Russia for its help for the UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] in unblocking Tuzla Airport and for Russia's willingness to send an extra 300 servicemen to the UNPROFOR.

Butrus-Ghali, Kozyrev Discuss Peacekeeping

LD0104193294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1727 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—Negotiations of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, currently here on an official visit, were held today at the Russian Foreign Ministry's residence to discuss peace-keeping operations of the United Nations and Russia.

"It was a specific business-like conversation and I am grateful to the United Nations secretary-general for it," the Russian foreign minister told a news conference here today.

The minister described Butrus-Ghali as a diplomat who heads the world's leading organization and a person who has made a colossal contribution to the solution of international problems, including settlement of armed conflicts around the globe.

In his turn, Butrus-Ghali said that Russia has played a most important diplomatic role on the world scene within the past few weeks. The Russian diplomacy helped to find a solution to the Sarajevo and Tuzla problem, which was an important contribution to peacemaking efforts in former Yugoslavia.

The secretary-general expressed the hope that Russian-U.N. cooperation will bring peace to Georgia and Tajikistan and thanked Russia for the assistance to the consolidation of the U.N. role.

The meeting of Kozyrev and Butrus-Ghali lasted for over an hour.

Butrus-Ghali on Russian Peacemaking Role

LD0104201294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1820 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali told a news conference upon the completion of his meeting with Andrey Kozyrev here today he is optimistic about a possibility of U.N.-Russian cooperation in peace-making around the globe, including Georgia and Tajikistan.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about the Russian peace-making role in former Soviet republics and a possibility of these efforts' integration with the United Nations global peace-making operations, Butrus-Ghali said this was discussed with the Russian foreign minister.

In his words, the U.N. secretariat is very interested in cooperation with Russia and its participation in peacemaking contingents in various areas. At the same time, a resolution of the United Nations Security Council to the effect is necessary, which will entail certain financial difficulties.

The U.N. peace-making budget has increased from 500 million dollars to 3.6 billions within two years, and this is an obstacle to be overcome in order to expand cooperation with Russia in this sphere, said Butrus-Ghali.

Praises Russian Role in Former Yugoslavia

LD0204181294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1526 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Babkin]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali praised Russian diplomats for their contribution to the peace settlement in the former Yugoslavia in his speech at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

The U.N. secretary general said that the solution to the problem of Sarajevo and Tuzla was found thanks to Russian initiatives.

As concerns the participation of a Turkish contingent in the international peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia, Butrus- Ghali said it would play no negative role in the region. The United Nations is an international organisation, and its peacekeeping forces must also be international, he said.

Asked about the international community's role in the Middle- East peace process, the secretary general pointed to the mission of the U.N. peacekeepers in the conflict zone. He welcomed any initiatives designed to promote the peace process in the Middle-East.

Butrus-Ghali said the international community is interested in expanding the presence of the United Nations and Russia in the peacekeeping operations on the territory of the former Soviet Union. He noted that the main pitfall on this path was financial, as the budget of the U.N. peacekeeping efforts has increased considerably in the past two years.

Discusses UN Role in Former Republics

LD0304212194 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Studio interview with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by "Itogi" program announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev; in English with superimposed Russian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Kiselev] It is a well known fact that in its aspiration to play a key role in resolving the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, Russia has long been exerting diplomatic efforts with the aim of gaining the status of peacekeeping forces for the Russian Federation troops in that region. Issues relating to the peacekeeping operations, in which, on the one hand, Russia and, on the other, the United Nations are involved, were the main subject of the negotiations in Moscow between Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. Our interview with them focused on this very topic.

Mr. secretary general, as everyone knows, the UN peacekeeping forces must not include servicemen from countries which are in one way or another involved in the conflict or whose territories neighbor on the conflict. Russia would today wish, on the one hand, to widen the UN participation in peacekeeping operations in the post-Soviet space, but on the other hand, it does not want to refuse to get involved itself in resolving conflicts near its borders, nor, indeed, can it refuse to do so. A very contradictory situation is thus created. Where do you see the way out of this, if there is one?

[Butrus-Ghali] Of course there is a way out. Take former Yugoslavia, for instance. The United Nations, the European Community and, finally, NATO are all taking part in the efforts to establish peace in this region. I see no obstacles to Russian forces taking part in peacekeeping operations on the territory of the former USSR under the Russian Federation flag. But at the same time, independent peacekeeping operations would be taking place there in close cooperation with Russia, involving UN observers, for example. This sort of approach has not been adopted previously.

Previously, for the United Nations, it was an indispensable condition that the entire command of any peacekeeping operation remain in UN hands. However, now we do not have enough forces for everything. Only recently, the United Nations never had more than two or three peacekeeping operations on the go at the same time. Today 17 such operations are being condutcted around the globe at the same time. The annual budget of the UN peacekeeping forces was at one time $500-600 million, whereas now it is up to $3.6 billion per year. In this situation, we cannot do without additional assistance from the UN member countries, and also from various regional organizations.

[Kiselev] Nevertheless, if I understood you correctly, you rule out the possibility of Russian Federation troops operating under the UN flag in the capacity of peacekeeping forces in the Transcaucasus or in Tajikistan, for example.

[Butrus-Ghali] Yes, it is impossible because the United Nations Organization can carry out a peacekeeping operation only from the very start, the same way a surgeon will not agree to operate on a patient starting mid-way. But if you have already started an independent peacemaking operation, the United Nations Organization can give you assistance and work side by side with you. There is another option which is to include Russian troops in a broader international peacekeeping contingent, under UN command, though.

[Kiselev] What countries can send their servicemen to participate in such a contingent, for instance, in Georgia, Abkhazia, or Tajikistan? Is it at all feasible to form such a contingent?

[Butrus-Ghali] It is feasible if a relevant agreement is attained and if the UN Security Council is convinced that this is necessary, because all this has to be paid for but the Security Council is not always willing to do this. Many of its members are disappointed by the fact that not all recent UN peacekeeping operations have been successful, such as Somalia and former Yugoslavia. So I repeat, Security Council members have yet to be convinced, talks with them are needed. At the same time, there are conditions stipulating an international nature of the peacekeeping contingent, that is, Russian servicemen will account for no more than 20-30 percent of its total number while the remaining 70 percent will be made up of servicemen from five or six other countries. Only in this case will the United Nations defray the cost of the operation and, again, on the condition of retaining the political leadership of the operation.

[Kiselev] So you discussed all the above with our Foreign Minister Kozyrev?

[Butrus-Ghali] Yes, we did.

[Kiselev] And what was the result: sharp disagreements or mutual understanding?

[Butrus-Ghali] No, on the contrary, I hope that an accord will be attained within the next few days, and on its basis we will later discuss at the Security Council the issue of dispatching UN peacekeeping forces or UN observers to the areas of conflict in the former USSR.

[Kiselev] But you must agree that UN observers and peacekeeping forces are not the same.

[Butrus-Ghali] You are right. However, if we do not get the Security Council's consent to dispatching peacekeeping forces we will still be able to obtain a mandate to dispatch observers.

[Interview cuts to Foreign Minister Kozyrev without introduction or question from Kiselev]

[Kozyrev] Yes indeed, the role of observers is slightly different. They are not troops. Therefore, they are taking part. But this is useful. We would indeed like our contingent to be granted the status of a UN contingent. Incidentally, this option is being discussed. We are proposing this option for Karabakh, and also for Abkhazia. But the problem once again is this: if our contingent officially becomes a UN contingent, ie if our servicemen literally don blue helmets, then the United Nations has to pay for this in full. But unfortunately this is what they do not want to do. Moreover, the United Nations has to share with us political responsibility for these efforts. Here again, as I have already mentioned, there is a budget deficit, and there is also what I would call a deficit of political courage and will. But the secretary general cannot solve this question on his own. This question has to be solved by the UN Security Council. Hence this question is not in the hands of the secretary general, but in the hands of, above all, permanent members and also other member states of the Security Council.

Another aspect that we often forget is that the United Nations operates on precedents. If the United Nations directly agrees to involvement by a neighboring state in some conflicts directly on its behalf—I mean on behalf of the United Nations—one can imagine that in other conflicts, in other regions, some other states would demand a similar mandate from the United Nations. And here certain difficulties may arise. I will not give any examples, but one can easily imagine this. Moreover, it may well be that we ourselves will be very much concerned if a particular neighboring state starts conducting operations in its neighboring state under the UN flag, as it were.

[Butrus-Ghali] Security Council members' hesitations are not just about you—though I know that people in Russia do think that the United Nations does not want to embark on peacekeeping operations particularly in your case, on the territory of the former [Soviet] Union. But this is not so. For example, we would undoubtedly like to send 600 blue helmets to Mozambique. We have been discussing it for six months, but not one of UN member states shows any willingness to designate its servicemen to be part of this contingent. So I have to go to various capitals as a petitioner: please do send you soldiers to Mozambique. But after all, UN members have to bear responsibility to each other. Suppose tomorrow the United Nations asks Russia to send 2,000 Russian servicemen to Angola. Public opinion in your country will certainly start buzzing: why should we send 2,000 of our soldiers to Angola? Why Angola? Where is this Angola anyway? Why should my son risk his life in Angola? Preparing public opinion is a huge problem. Say, if you want Argentina or Chile—two weeks ago there was negotiation about the possibility of those two countries allocating some of their servicemen to be sent to Tajikistan in the future. So you have to be prepared, in turn, to send your servicemen, say, to Angola, however unpopular this measure might be. One of my tasks is precisely this. I am telling Russia: I know that you have many internal problems at home, but don't forget about the United Nations.

Yeltsin Meets With Butrus-Ghali

LD0404105694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0912 GMT 4 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—A meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has begun in the Kremlin. Greeting his guest, Yeltsin said that the world situation had changed during the past two years. Blocs ceased to exist, and for this reason "the role of the United Nations organisations became absolutely different." The president explained that "the U.N. has become more active of late, and its role in settling some controversial problems has been enhanced."

Yeltsin intends to discuss with Butrus Butrus-Ghali the key problems dealing with the functioning of the U.N. and with the work of the Security Council. They may touch upon other problems, including a peaceful settlement of the Bosnian crisis.

Butrus-Ghali, Grachev Discuss Peacekeeping

LD0404101694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0938 GMT 4 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vadim Brykin and Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has described as constructive and positive his talks with Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev. He thanked Russia for its contribution to the U.N. peace-keeping efforts in various parts of the world and expressed hope for the continuation of that cooperation in the interests of peace.

In his turn, Pavel Grachev thanked the U.N. secretary-general for that high appreciation and pointed out that it was especially important today, when Russia is being accused of some "imperial aspiration" by some forces. According to Grachev, Butrus-Ghali came up with proposals on Russia's participation in a number of peace-keeping operations from the point of view of their engineering, rear and technical support. "We agreed to those proposals, and shall prepare corresponding units," the Russian minister said.

Responding to the question of ITAR-TASS whether the granting of a U.N. status to our peace-keeping force was discussed at the talks, Grachev said that such suggestions were made to Butrus-Ghali, and he is going to examine them. He stressed that a positive settlement of those problems is connected with the problem of financing U.N. peace-keeping operations. The U.N. budget envisages two to three such operations a year, while at present 17 peace-keeping operations are under way.

The Russian side suggested as well the renovation and upgrading of the collective security mechanism. Russia suggested to the U.N. to bear part of the expenses on the transportation and deployment of peace-keeping forces. It is also important for us that the armaments and military hardware, used by peace-keeping forces, should not be taken into account during the calculation of the maximum level of armaments under the treaty on the limitation of conventional armaments in Europe, Grachev said.

Butrus-Ghali Interviewed on UN Peacekeeping

PM0404143994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview given by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to IZVESTIYA; date and place not given: "Butrus-Ghali: UN Does Not Exist To Punish People. UN Secretary General Answers IZVESTIYA's Questions"]

[Text] [IZVESTIYA] In what way does the United Nations hope to reconcile the principle of noninterference in other states' internal affairs with its efforts aimed at asserting human rights and democracy worldwide?

[Butrus-Ghali] The definition of human rights is contained in international treaties to which states accede on a voluntary basis. After the treaties are ratified, states assume international pledges to respect the spirit and letter of these agreements. As a result, the international community of nations acquires the powers to monitor and observe how states observe the pledges they have entered into. Moreover, existing international law sees major human rights violations as legitimate grounds for alarm.

[IZVESTIYA] How do you plan to combine the right of self-determination and the principle of the inviolability of state borders?

[Butrus-Ghali] Although the term "self-determination" has not yet been clearly defined, the international community recognizes that all peoples have the right of self-determination and are free on that basis to choose their political status and to implement their economic, social, and cultural development. Implementation of the right of self-determination should not infringe the territorial inviolability or political independence of any state.

[IZVESTIYA] What methods of punishing states which violate UN principles are currently under consideration?

[Butrus-Ghali] The United Nations does not strive to "punish" states which violate its principles.

But if the Security Council considers it necessary, it can call on parties to a dispute whose continuation could pose a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security to resolve that dispute through negotiation, investigation, mediation, reconciliation, arbitration, judicial examination, or an appeal to regional organs.

The Security Council can also call on UN members to break off economic relations or rail, maritime, air, postal, telegraph, radio, and other forms of communication with the state violating international norms, as well as breaking off diplomatic relations with it.

[IZVESTIYA] How does the United Nations rate the prospects for the use of armed forces for peacekeeping purposes? Practice has shown that even the operations in Cambodia failed to produce the expected results.

[Butrus-Ghali] The establishment of peace is primarily tied in with the utilization of armed forces against those who use force to violate a peace agreement. This approach is laid down in the rules governing peacekeeping operations. But the main question is different—will the United Nations have enough military resources to carry out such measures, and will it have enough political will to see them through? If the answer to both questions is in the affirmative, then it may be possible to establish peace. [Butrus-Ghali ends]

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali arrived on a five-day official visit to the Russian capital Friday. The VIP guest's first statement to journalists on Russian soil was brief: "I am very glad to have the opportunity to visit Moscow again."

Russia Considers Limited UN Security Council Enlargement

LD0104183794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Russia is not trying to avoid cooperation with the UN, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, who specializes in relations with the UN and other international organizations, told Interfax. Lavrov is expected to leave for New York as the Russia's permanent ambassador at the UN.

Lavrov said issues on peacemaking activities, including on CIS territory, and on strengthening of the UN as an organization capable of uniting efforts of all states and of helping them to define the basis of the new system of international relations, would be discussed during the visit of the UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to Moscow (on April 1-5).

Lavrov did not rule out a discussion on reorganization of the UN Security Council and the UN in general. He stressed that the issue was being considered by a specially established working group which was discussing criteria for possible enlargement of the UN Security Council. Possible candidacies were also discussed, including Germany, Japan, India, Nigeria, Egypt, Indonesia and other states. However, this does not mean that the candidacies will become a full member of the UN Security Council. Consensus was required to resolve the issue, primarily in the regional groups.

Lavrov said enlargement of the UN Security Council must be balanced not only from the point of view of the

industrially developed countries but also from the point of view of geographical regions. He suggested that the parties concerned would have to discuss this issue for a long time. There were proposals to finish the work on the issue by the fiftieth anniversary of the UN (1995). However, they were not accepted. The anniversary was not the main criterion for the work.

Russia is prepared to consider the issue on limited enlargement of the UN Security Council. However, the efficiency of the Security Council must be preserved or even increased.

Grachev on Partnership for Peace, NATO Integration

LD0104153594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Russia's Defense Ministry is well aware of the fact that the Partnership for Peace program is one of the concrete demonstrations of NATO strategy aimed at the alliance's adaptation towards the modern geopolitical realities, Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev declared during his meeting with cultural figures on Friday.

Having qualified the geopolitical and military-strategic situation as unfavorable for Russia, Grachev pointed out that if the Russian Federation abstains from joining this program it "will lose the initiative and will end up in self-isolation."

"Today Russia strives to receive a status which is adequate to its weight and role including partnership with NATO and the United States," said Grachev. At the same time he underlined that the Russian Federation "would not restrict its activity within the framework proposed to it but would focus its attention on further development of bilateral relations with NATO's leading members."

According to Grachev, "nobody questions Russia's integration into NATO's military structures, we see the need in cooperation and integration with NATO for the sake of peace in Europe and in the whole world."

As Grachev indicated, under the present situation strategic nuclear forces are the real guarantor of Russia's security. "We give priority to the development of these forces given this fact," said Grachev.

In his words, taking into consideration the country's economic opportunities the Defense Ministry does its utmost to make the troop reduction process go smoothly. "There is no need to maintain a 4-5 Mn strong army but we cannot cut it down to 1.9 Mn people under any conditions either," noted Grachev.

The Defense Ministry has prepared proposals to make more concrete and to develop new decrees. It primarily concerns changes and supplements to the decrees on defense, military duty and military service, on the status of the servicemen, and on pensions. The ministry also intends to develop new decrees on military state, military militia, and on military courts.

As Grachev declared, recently "we managed to lower the sharpness of military discipline." Compared with 1992 the total amount of crimes in 1993 reduced by one fourth, there were 17 percent less crimes related to arms and ammunitions robbery, the number of crimes connected with unauthorized relations has reduced by 22.3 percent. Nevertheless, the problem of servicemen's death as a result of suicides still remains pressing.

Churkin Supports Partnership for Peace

LD0204174494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1312 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Interview with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin by Viktor Levin; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Levin] What do we gain by joining the Partnership for Peace program, and in what way can it be of use to us?

[Churkin] What do we gain by it? First, we proceed from the consideration that there will be an important element in it of a new political link between Russia and the North Atlantic bloc. We are getting a greater opportunity for influencing political decisions being made by the NATO because... [pauses] One can speak of the stronger and weaker points of NATO. In my opinion, though I know that many will not like this way of putting it, the main weak point of NATO is that Russia is not among the members of that organization—this is the main drawback. Therefore, NATO can in fact make decisions—as happened with the NATO ultimatum—that do not correspond to our views and may contradict our interests.

[Levin] You mean the NATO ultimatum on Sarajevo?

[Churkin] On Sarajevo, yes, on Sarajevo. So, in order to minimize the danger of NATO making decisions that are harmful to Russia, we must hold as close consultations with them as possible. A more effective way of influencing NATO decisionmaking simply does not exist. Take the military sphere: I am convinced—I have visited our peacekeeping battalions in Croatia and in Sarajevo—and I am convinced that in order to raise our forces to a really modern level and to carry out military reform it is necessary to cooperate with the NATO member-states as closely as possible. It is an objective a fact that NATO armed forces currently represent the standard of a modern structure and functioning of armed forces.

[Levin] Now a concrete question—cooperation in peacemaking activities.

[Churkin] We do not regard cooperation with NATO and the Partnership for Peace as merely a school or a classroom where we should be listening awestricken to

NATO teachers. We too know things that deserve attention. I know for example—the NATO military told me this when the operation for airlifting humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina was starting—that in this field, for instance, Russian pilots have unsurpassed skill. So we proceed from the assumption that Partnership for Peace will be a scheme based on the principle of equality and equal importance not only in political aspects but also in practical aspects and that two equal partners will take part in it—the North Atlantic bloc and the Russian Federation.

One of the important aspects of Russia's policy at the moment involves encouraging integration tendencies within the Commonwealth of Independent States, including the integration tendencies that, as you know, exist in the field of security—there are collective CIS forces. We see as our next step the establishing of cooperation and probably even a partnership between NATO and the CIS.

[Levin] Let us imagine that Russia refuses to join the Partnership for Peace program. In that event, how would you foresee events developing?

[Churkin] In that case the program would start to be implemented without us. That is all. I am surprised by the views of some of our politicians that Russia could simply not give its approval to the program and it would then cease to exist or that this program for some reason or other hampers integrational trends or cooperation within the CIS framework. This is absolutely incomprehensible to me, not to mention the fact that the members of the CIS—and this is why they are called independent states—make their own sovereign decisions. Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova have already joined the Partnership for Peace program, and others too may take this step without any consent from Russia. Therefore, by this step we shall develop the group of CIS members that is becoming more and more harmonious, including more harmonious as regards collective peacekeeping and security efforts.

I absolutely cannot see any positive aspects, logically speaking, to our non-participation in the Partnership for Peace program. It seems to me in general that the debate that has arisen around this program seems, perhaps, at the very least to be in its character not practical and political but, I would say, ideological—ideological in a very fundamental way. It is a question of which direction Russia should pursue in the future in its foreign policy: Whether we are to maintain our principled course of openness and cooperation with the European countries and the United States or whether we need to return to the past and attempt to retire into ourselves and somehow gather the CIS under us—like a chicken does her eggs—and, in this setting of some degree of self-imposed isolation, attempt tackle our own issues. I think that the second course would be completely wrong and destructive for us. It would benefit neither Russia nor the world community, which needs the active presence of Russia in the international arena.

Kostikov Cited on NATO Entry Decision Postponement

PM0104185194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 3

[Vladimir Mikheyev report: "Process of Russia's Joining NATO Postponed. Until Fall, as President's Press Secretary Said, Or Forever?]

[Text] The pent-up storm potential of criticism of the "marriage contract" the Americans have drawn up with former members of the Warsaw Pact, known as the "Partnership for Peace" program, has been eased by a statement by the president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov, who declared that Yeltsin will not rush to join Russia to the Atlantic alliance.

Before making a final decision the president will hold consultations with all political forces. The process of joining NATO has been put on hold for six or seven months.

Establishing partnership relations with NATO of an indeterminate quality and unclear status constitutes a "political step" for Russia, Kostikov said, and therefore "public consent" has to be reached first.

The document prepared within the bowels of NATO fails to mention key problems, Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for International Affairs, has said. Who will defend whom? In what circumstances? On what terms?

It is not clear how equal the command of this complex international organism will be. What if Moscow objects to any joint actions planned in Brussels, but which have to be carried out by all members? Will Moscow have a voice that will be heeded?

The scope of the enlarged NATO's powers also remains unclear. Will it be confined to "peacekeeping" operations or might there be a question of operations "to establish peace," that is, coercive measures using armed force?

How does the NATO sphere of interests tie in with the process of European cooperation within the CSCE framework? The CSCE has an internationally recognized mandate to ensure security and stability but at the same time it has no mechanism for peacekeeping activity. NATO on the other hand has no such mandate, but it does have force of arms.

What is to be done with the slowly developing CIS collective security structure? Russia is not pressing for the dissolution of NATO, but it cannot predict how this alliance will behave toward the CIS.

The sixth question concerns a demand common to all the bloc's members—to arrive at uniformity in the armaments system. How far will standardization undermine the positions of Russian manufacturers of military hardware?

Lastly, the financial situation—amid industrial decline and inflation will Russia be able to bear the burden that will be asked of it?

There is every indication that the postponement decision was viewed with understanding in the upper echelons of NATO.

Zhirinovskiy Warns Finland on NATO Membership

LD0304153894 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1430 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] In Russia, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has warned Finland against joining NATO. According to Zhirinovskiy, membership of NATO would turn Finland into an enemy of Russia. Zhirinovskiy will arrive in Finland tomorrow together with a delegation from the Russian parliament. Correspondent Martti Hosia met him in Moscow.

[Hosia] Absolutely not—This was Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's reply when asked to give his view of Finland joining the European Union [EU] and in time, possibly NATO. He completely left aside EU membership, but was more than eager to seize on NATO. Keep away from NATO and all military alliances which are directed against Russia, otherwise you will turn into enemies of Russia and cannon fodder. German and Russian tank divisions will be fighting on your territory, Zhirinovskiy depicted the scene in his customary style.

His party's deputy chairman, Ahmed Khalitov, for his part, complained that there is a lot of anti-Russian feeling in Finland at present. Weapons are being acquired and hostile propaganda is on the rise. The stick has two ends, Khalitov warned.

Zhirinovskiy and his Liberal Democrat party comrades are known for their tough talking. Zhirinovskiy is an opposition leader and he does not need to be diplomatic in his choice of words. However, Zhirinovskiy does have close links with conservative officers in the army; the words have the same tone. NATO is still a red rag to the conservative officers here. For instance, a retired general who addressed a meeting of Slav nations in Moscow today, organized by Zhirinovskiy, was seriously of the view that the West's and NATO's peacekeeping activities in former Yugoslavia are only a dress rehearsal for an occupation of Russia.

Against this background, it is understandable that NATO's Partnership for Peace project has also aroused severe condemnation here. Moscow does not like the fact that NATO first approached the East European and Baltic countries as well as Sweden and Finland. Russia was left last. In Moscow's view, the marching order should have been precisely the opposite.

In Russia's official foreign political leadership, NATO's Partnership for Peace has caused chaos. In the opinion of President Yeltsin's spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov, it may take more than six months to reach agreement on Partnership for Peace, while Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is talking about one month. As leader of the opposition, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is happy to spit into this NATO soup boiling in Moscow by warning Finland of the dangers of NATO and western leanings in general.

Kozyrev Interviewed on Foreign Affairs

LD0304213794 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Studio interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by program announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev; date not given; from the "Itogi" program—recorded]

[Text] [Kiselev] It goes without saying that the changes which have taken place over the past six months in the disposition of forces on the Russian political stage could not have failed to place new emphases in Russian foreign policy, too. In this connection, many people draw attention to the fact that Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev is no longer the person we knew before.

In recent years, your position has evolved significantly. For example, in 1991, you said that everything concerning human rights in Estonia was alright, and you have since changed your view quite sharply. At the beginning of 1992 you were in favor of civilized relations with post-Soviet states, rejecting the need for military pressure, even, one recalls, in the middle of 1992 you spoke very sharply against the War Party.

But once again there are new nuances, such as—if one believes press reports of course—you once stated that it was possible to hold talks with the Tajik opposition only with the help of missile salvo's.

One way or another, an element of toughness has become quite noticeable in your actions. Tell, me, am I right or wrong to state that the position of the foreign affairs minister is evolving? Or is it not evolving at all?

[Kozyrev] Well, I would put it like this—yes and no. But, firstly, some of those quotes you cited are not exactly accurate, or have been cited not quite accurately in those media outlets, or you, now, for the purpose of abbreviation...[pauses] For example, that I had allegedly said in 1991 that, say, human rights were not being violated in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. I do not recall that, and it cannot be, because if you take my speech at the Supreme Soviet as it was, where I asserted in Autumn 1990, and not 1991, my first speech, then mention is already made there of the need to protect the rights of the Russian-speaking population, first and foremost in the Baltic states.

In other words, we have always said that. It is a mistaken notion that the patriotic and nationalist opposition has foisted this issue on us. But once again, I do not agree. Today, I am most resolutely opposed to the War Party which speaks of dispatching troops for the purposes of suppression and that thinks that these problems, such as

the violation of human rights, can be solved by inflicting bomb strikes as Rutskoy said, or as Zhirinovskiy says by the Russian soldier's boot or something in that vein. This is irresponsibility, and I am categorically against the War Party today, too.

It is a different matter that all these issues demand resolution. Why now? Yes, because of course we would have been bad democrats, and I would show disrespect to myself if I never heeded the voice of the voters, the voice of the people that was heard at the last elections, for example.

[Kiselev] You once stated, this was at the very start of the reforms, of the Gaydar reforms, that you were a member of the team of the reformers and that you would leave it only when they left. Now, at the start of 1994, we see that those people who have traditionally been associated with the concept of reformers in our country have left the government. But you have remained. With what is this decision linked?

[Kozyrev] Well to put it quite briefly and clearly, since you use the term team, then, the trainer and the captain of the team is the same. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin.

[Kiselev] In Russia, a strong foreign affairs minister is a person who defends, who strictly defends the interests of his department in its relationship with other departments. In this regard, I have this question: To what extent does your department, the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry, control the process of elaborating the Russian position concerning such a topical matter as the matter of unifying the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus, and does the Foreign Affairs Ministry have an official position on this problem?

[Kozyrev] Without a doubt, we take part in discussing these matters, although it is true, of course, that our sphere is such a priority as it were—these are political decisions. In political terms there are no doubts that, in this case, it is in the interests of Russia and Russia's course, to get as close as possible to Belarus. That is a political strategy.

But I have to tell you that the question here is of course very concrete, it consists in the unification of monetary systems, the unification. If it is not a payments union of some kind, and so on, or a payments agreement, but unification, then this demands the combination, the compatibility of both the legislative process and so on, and of all economic activity, which is a pretty complex problem of course.

I have to say that in the notorious agreement signed by Chernomyrdin and his Belarus colleague this is actually stated.

[Kiselev] At one time, through the forces of the opposition press, of course, the image of the pro-American politician, the Russian diplomat of a pro-American bent was established. Do you feel that this image has stuck with you and hindered you in your work?

[Kozyrev] Well, I will tell you that if the opposition, the extreme nationalist opposition—what I call the anti-patriotic opposition—accuses me of being pro-American, then that means that we are conducting the correct policy with regard to the United States.

The opposition wants a relationship with the United States and with NATO based on the foe principle. They need the foe image, otherwise their whole impracticable and anti-national design falls apart, you see.

It is a different matter that we have a pretty complex-...[pauses] New rules, principles, and mechanisms of partnership are being worked out now with the United States. We are quite open and sometimes even public about this. But for the greater part, by means of our specific diplomatic methods, we are of course holding discussions with them.

[Kiselev] And when they rebuke you for neo-imperialism, what conclusion do you draw for yourself?

[Kozyrev] Roughly this, irrespective who issues the rebuke, if I am rebuked by those whom the independent role of Russia as a global power clearly does not suit—and there are such in the West—then let us not close our eyes, because there are forces who really do not want Russia to be a global power. I think that this is a good indicator and it means that once again we are doing everything right.

[Kiselev] And when you are rebuked by our—shall we say radical liberals?

[Kozyrev] Well, our radical liberals are at times also inclined to such excessive radicalism. But what is there to worry about? These are all internal arguments you see, we have arguments, there is nothing to worry about.

If our extreme nationalists accuse us of listing toward the Americans, then once again it means we are doing the right thing because if they liked our American policy, then today we would not be discussing the problems we are talking about now, but would be saying: Okay, there is nothing to eat in the country, but the main thing is that there is no nuclear war.

Kozyrev on Abkhaz-Georgian Talks, Future Plans

LD0204192894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Announcer Sergey Medvedev] Who would have thought that after the fighting at the beginning of the week, the Georgians and Abkhazians would agree on peace at the end of it. But that is what seems to have taken place.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov was able to bring representatives of the warring sides to the negotiating table in Moscow, and they found a common language. Now, the appropriate agreement is expected to

be signed on Monday [4 April], in the presence of Russian and UN officials. Andrey Kozyrev, the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, in a special interview for our program, explains what exactly has been achieved over the past few days. [video shows Andrey Kozyrev speaking, to unseen interviewer]

[Begin Kozyrev recording] Agreement has been reached on, firstly, a cease-fire and no resumption of shooting, which is extraordinarily important and of course a condition for talks to switch from the language of the gun to that of political settlement.

Secondly, there is agreement on a complete return by refugees. Thank God, a formula has been found that conforms to international standards. I do not want this to be famous last words, but the formula corresponds to the UN's approach. The essence of this approach is that everyone can return, with the exception of a very small group of people who could possibly be accused of direct participation in and guilt for military crimes, and so forth. I think that this will be the first step in further progress toward an Abkhazia settlement.

The second step could be establishment of economic links and solutions to a whole range of other issues, such as confidence- building, and so forth.

And of course, of course, at some stage the question of status and all these legal issues is bound to arise. If you look at the agreement you will see that Russia is involved not only diplomatically. We will retain our presence and participation. A whole range of UN organizations will be actively involved in resolving these issues, but I want to stress once again that, of course, people can only be convinced by their own consciences and their responsibility before their nations. [end recording]

U.S. Commerce Secretary Sums Up Moscow Visit

PM0104131194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "Still A Paltry Sum"]

[Text] "We want cooperation that is real and not just symbolic," Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated Wednesday [30 March] during a Kremlin reception for U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown who is visiting Moscow. The day before, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin urged his U.S. partners "not to be afraid but to approach the Russian market more boldly." Has there been a real response to these appeals or has nothing been done about them? The three days that the U.S. business delegation headed by Brown spent in Moscow do not seem to have completely clarified this question.

On the one hand, four intergovernmental agreements were signed between the two countries Wednesday, including statutes on the Committee for the Development of Business Cooperation between Russia and America and on the creation of U.S. business centers in Russia. The joint statement adopted by Russia and the United States made special mention of the question of access to the U.S. market for Russian goods and to the Russian market for U.S. goods. Summing up the results of the U.S. delegation's three-day visit to Moscow at the end of the day on Wednesday, Brown made a special note of the successes of the delegation's representatives from the U.S. private sector and in particular the agreements signed with Russian partners by such U.S. corporations as McDermott International Inc., (shipbuilding), the Halliburton Company of Texas (gas and oil industry), Allen and Associates (the pharmaceutical industry), the Westinghouse Electric Corporation (modernization and construction of nuclear power power stations), and others.

At the same time, as the secretary himself acknowledged, U.S. private capital investments in Russia, which have almost doubled in the past year, are still only $1 billion, which is a paltry sum by U.S. standards (by comparison, U.S. companies have invested $239 billion in West Europe). During the visit Brown predicted that U.S. investments in Russia could easily rise to $45-$50 billion if the right conditions are created. He cited the lowering of Russia's customs tariffs and the easing of tax legislation among those conditions.

Gordiyevskiy on Ames Link, Espionage Issues

PM0104132594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 3

[Marat Zubko report: "Former KGB Colonel Believes Ames Betrayed Him"]

[Text] Helsinki—Oleg Gordiyevskiy, former KGB station chief in London, who spent many years working for British intelligence, stated on Finnish television that he was most likely betrayed by Ames, the high-ranking CIA officer. The same Ames whom FBI agents recently arrested for spying for Moscow.

"I myself was blown in 1985," Gordiyevskiy said in an hour-long Finnish television broadcast. "And all these years I have been trying to find out who exactly was to blame for this happening. When the scandal of Ames' arrest broke I realized that he was obviously the one...."

How exactly could Ames have known about the former KGB colonel's double game if, according to Gordiyevskiy, British intelligence did not give his name to the Americans? He said that the most important information he passed on to the British was sent from London to Washington, but in a "depersonalized form." Nevertheless, based on knowledge of these reports Ames evidently came to the conclusion that the information was coming from a person who at that time was working in London and who was previously in Scandinavia. Thus the KGB determined the source which was leaking important information.

This supposition, Gordiyevskiy believes, is confirmed by the following fact. It has now been learned that the Soviet side transferred the first major reward to Ames'

bank account 18 May 1985, while Gordiyevskiy, the KGB station chief in London, was recalled to Moscow 17 May. In the USSR it became clear to him that he had been exposed, but he managed to escape abroad.

The former KGB colonel recounted that, as it turns out, he was acquainted with Ames. After his flight from Moscow he traveled to the United States several times and met with leading CIA officers there. Gordiyevskiy now recalls that Ames was present at these conversations, during which Ames smiled at him. It is clear that the Soviet Union knew everything that was told to the Americans.

A large part of the interview was devoted to the Soviet special services' work against Finland. The KGB colonel reported that the main agent network was recruited immediately after the war. At that time the country "was on its knees," so it was not so very difficult to incline people toward cooperation.

Agents were recruited from various strata of society. Even from among church officials. Not to carry out intelligence work but to make, for example, a copy from the church register needed by a Soviet Karelian illegal agent concerning his "birth in Finland."

Gordiyevskiy disclosed that the KGB's strongest positions were in the Finnish Center Party, which formed the country's government many times. The station later penetrated the ranks of the Social Democrats and even of the Conservatives.

The KGB station chief in Finland, Gordiyevskiy stated, used to receive encrypted messages from Moscow containing the main points of comments which were to be put into the mouths of eminent Finnish politicians. For instance, he met with former Finnish President Urho Kekkonen and spoke to him in roughly the following terms: It is desired that during your visit to such-and-such a country you could say the following for the sake of world peace....

"For your convenience we have even composed the text," the station chief would smile and take a sheet out of his pocket with the main points typed in Finnish.

The former colonel believes that Finland is now being used in work against the Baltic countries. Gordiyevskiy said that Moscow believes that Western intelligence services are actively using these states to spy on Russian territory. On the other hand, Russia wants to know everything about the intentions of the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian Governments.

At the end of the broadcast the double agent was asked whether the death sentence pronounced on him back in the years when the USSR existed had been quashed, and whether he had received an amnesty from the State Duma, which released Rutskoy, Khasbulatov, Makashov, and others from custody.

"No, it has not been quashed," Gordiyevskiy said. "But I do not want any amnesty from this Red-and-Brown Duma. The death sentence is my reward and my banner...."

Yeltsin Aide Says 'No Chill' in Russian-U.S. Ties

LD0204062194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0610 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—"The visit to Moscow by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown has shown that there is no chill in Russian-U.S. relations," Dmitriy Ryurikov, assistant to the Russian president, told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview.

"The two sides adhere to the policy of partnership, value their relations and think how to make them still more productive and versatile in the future," Ryurikov said.

The U.S. commerce secretary led a delegation of prominent representatives of the U.S. business community whose principal aim is to "stimulate American private business' interest in Russia".

"To all appearances, the delegation members saw for themselves Russia's interest in cooperation, and the Russian leadership's support for big projects and closer contacts", Ryurikov pointed out.

Denies Russian Imperial Ambitions

LD0304095694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0810 GMT 3 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—"The interests of Russia now are primarily economic, trade and humanitarian ones, that is absolutely legitimate, normal vital interests of a civilised democratic state", Dmitriy Ryurikov, assistant to the Russian president, told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview.

Ryurikov categorically denied assertions that Russia manifested imperial ambitions in its foreign policy. The presidential aide emphasised that he does not see "anything terrible in remarks by Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev who refers to CIS countries as the area of Russia's vital interests".

"This is really so. Russia has vital interests in CIS countries, just as those countries have very serious and vital interests in Russia", Ryurikov said.

He believes that the vital interests of Russia and CIS countries closely interweave. All depends on what is understood by the term "interests", the presidential aide pointed out.

"Russia has moved away from the former Soviet Union's understanding of 'interests' as a desire to monitor and influence the internal life and foreign policies of

other states and to declare them to be an area of the Soviet Union's special 'interests'. If they disagreed, pressure tactics, the dispatch of troops, etc. Used to be resorted to," Ryurikov explained.

Border With Estonia Reinforced After Attack on Guards

LD0204123194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1009 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Apr—Three border detachments and the Pytalovo and Pechory border checkpoints have been reinforced in order to guard the Russian-Estonian border, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed at the press office of the Russian border troops. This is related to the incident that occurred there on Friday 1 April when two unidentified persons fired a pistol at a border detail.

The Russian border troops' press office reports that customs checks are being carried out according to special procedures. Together with Ministry of Internal Affairs bodies, reserve forces of the border troops are searching for the criminals. The search staff, which was set up immediately after the tragic events, is being led by Lieutenant General Vladimir Vyunov, commander of the North-West Border District.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from the headquarters of Russia's border troops that the Estonian side has expressed its readiness to assist in the search for the criminals, who went to ground on the territory of the republic after committing their crime.

Chernomyrdin Signs 6 Economic Agreements in Hungary

LD0104170194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1538 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Zhirnikhin and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Budapest April 1 TASS—The official visit of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to Hungary has resulted in signing six bilateral economic agreements.

The documents signed in Budapest on Friday include an agreement on the settlement of the problem of mutual undebtedness, a convention on evading double taxation, protocol on exchange of goods supplies in 1994, proceedings of a session of the joint commission on trade and economic cooperation, and a memorandum on cooperation in the field of postal services and electric communication.

The two sides also signed a protocol which supplements the 1996 protocol on joing efforts in building a nuclear power plant in Hungary.

Views Economic Relations

LD0104172094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1542 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Zhirnikhin and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Budapest April 1 TASS—Trade-economic cooperation is a special aspect of the Russian-Hungarian relations, Russian Prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, currently here on an official visit, told Hungarian businessmen today.

The importance of trade-economic relations has drastically increased now that Russia and Hungary have overcome the past and have no serious political problems, said.

Geographic closeness of Russia and Hungary and years-old traditional bilateral contacts are very important. The two countries know each other's conditions, customs and potential market abilities and have a developed communications network for economic relations. Cooperation reserves are huge, stressed the premier.

Viktor Chernomyrdin called for encouragement of new forms of business cooperation, creation of joint ventures and banks, mutual participation in investment processes and privatization programs in Hungary and Russia. He thinks that production cooperation and direct relations of Hungarian and Russian plans are a priority area. There are also reserves of regional cooperation.

"We value high Hungarian experience in this sphere. Hungary has been active in Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, the Komi Republic and the Stavropol territory," he said.

Speaking of the Russian economic situation, Chernomyrdin stressed that Russian market economy has been created and will be further developed.

"We are determined to follow this path no matter how hard it might be. Russian problems cannot be solved at once. Any haste can rather spoil the situation, provoke social tension and break the economic reforms," noted the Russian prime minister.

Russia To Process Hungary's Nuclear Waste

LD0204222894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The Russian-Hungarian treaty on burying processed nuclear fuel on the territory of our country is quite advantageous for Russia, Viktor Mikhaylov, minister of nuclear power engineering, told INTERFAX. Let me remind you that during his visit to Hungary Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed an agreement under which processed nuclear fuel from Hungarian nuclear power stations is to be brought to Russia, for which our country is to be paid 40 million dollars. Here is a report from our correspondent.

[Correspondent Yevgeniya Novikova] Russia is still receiving radioactive waste from foreign nuclear power stations under international agreements once concluded by the Soviet Union. This concerns only those stations that were built by the Soviet Union on its neighbors' territory, and with which appropriate agreements were concluded. According to Greenpeace, processed nuclear fuel is currently stored on the territory of combines in Chelyabinsk and Krasnoyarsk, where the ecological situation has already caused a high incidence of radiation sickness and oncological diseases among the population. [passage omitted]

Churkin Views Developments in Former Yugoslavia

LD0304170094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1345 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the president on the settlement in former Yugoslavia, by correspondent Mikhail Kozhukhov; in the "Panorama" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kozhukhov] Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the president on the settlement in former Yugoslavia, has once again become a man of the week. With his participation in the Russian Embassy, representatives of Croatia and the self-declared Serb Krajina have agreed that as of 0900, 5 April they will stop killing each other. Vitaliy Ivanovich, the agreement between Serb Krajina and Croatia was signed when yiu were recently in Zagreb. We saw your happy face on our TV sets. But was this happiness not premature? The truce is not the peace as yet, you know.

[Churkin] Well, I really was very happy because two rounds, which lasted for 30 hours—and the last round of negotiations lasted for 17 hours, ending at 0300 on 30 March—led to the signing of one of the most important agreements, I believe. This is the agreement on a ceasefire between Serbs and Croats. It is very important that this is not only a declaration that they do not want to fight each other, but this is also a complex military and technical document which includes, for example, 35 maps with a detailed picture along the whole length of the line of contact between Serbs and Croats. It could be around 1,000 kilometers. That is to say that the implementation of this agreement will ensure that even if the sides want to shoot each other they will not be able to do so. There is a serious control procedure over this agreement on the part of the UN troops. That is to say that we are really talking, at last, about a line being drawn under the war between Serbs and Croats which has lasted for over two years. There have been constant fighting and shelling, the peaceful population has been killed—both Serbs and Croats—and one of the most volatile areas of conflict threatened to erupt. And if this happened it would for sure bury any hopes of resolving the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. So, this is a very serious step.

[Kozhukhov] But at the moment, the embers are still burning because, as far as I know, Serb Krajina will not agree to the status of even a large autonomy within Croatia.

[Churkin] Yes, you are right. But in conditions when it is impossible to start a war we believe that we can move to the second stage—to arrange economic relations between Serbs and Croats in this region. The sides will meet again in two weeks on our initiative and under our mediation to discuss the economic issues. Then we will move to the third stage, and there is wide understanding between the main members of the world community as far as this question is concern. This stage will be the most difficult, as you mentioned—to determine the political status of the regions where Serbs are living now under the protection of the United Nations.

[Kozhukhov] Diplomats would rather not make wild guesses. Nevertheless, what will happen to Bosnia?

[Churkin] We expect to resume the negotiating process in Bosnia in the next few weeks. Strictly speaking, it has never died away completely. An exchange of opinions continues, in particular, between the Americans and us. It is we and the Americans who are going to play the leading role now in the settlement efforts.

I think the sides will have to get in touch again and try to resolve, above all, the most difficult territorial issue, how to separate territorially the authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina between the three peoples who form the state—Serbs, Croats and Muslims—and to finally define the position regarding the state structure of Bosnia-Herzegovina, whether it will be the union of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a federation, or something else. A lot has been done already in this respect. One thing is necessary though. It is necessary for the sides finally to decide that it is time to stop the war and switch to peace. Without such resoluteness of the sides, certainly, no efforts by international mediators can be successful.

[Kozhukhov] You know, I was in Belgrade at the end of last year and it seemed to me that, as far as the situation as a whole on the territory of former Yugoslavia is concerned, there could be no good solutions. The sides hate each other so much and they are so unprepared for a compromise that the incredible—Yugoslavia's return within its former borders—might be the best solution.

[Churkin] You were absolutely correct to mention this moral dilemma which the peoples of former Yugoslavia have to face. After the war which has taken place, especially on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, any solutions which might be evolving now will be morally detrimental. But unfortunately, the clocks cannot be turned back and one cannot return everything to a state of affairs as it was at the beginning of 1991.

[Kozhukhov] Many people in Russia think that Russia does not in reality have interests in Serbia, and that this topic is only a card in a domestic political game. What do you think about that?

[Churkin] I think that we do have interests in the Balkans, and we do have interests in former Yugoslavia—political, economic and others; and just as important, is the fact that it is impossible to settle this conflict without us. We all became convinced of this fact in recent months when we were not participating so actively, and a settlement was constantly slipping out of reach. But again, you rightly perceive that sometimes this question does become the subject of a certain domestic political game, and passions are artificially whipped up over it.

In addition, it seems to me that some of our Serbian partners who have sensed this are trying artificially to inflate the question of Russian-Serbian brotherhood in order to push us into positions which would contravene Russia's own interests, and which, in the final analysis, would mean unconditional support for Serbian extremism. We have never allowed this in our position in our diplomatic and political work, and we will never allow it. We will implement a balanced and objective policy. We will have contact with all three sides, and only in this way can we promote a Yugoslav settlement.

[Kozhukhov] Do you think personally that the Ames affair was indeed revenge for the breakthrough in the Balkans?

[Churkin] No, I do not think everything is that simple. This is my personal view: I do not deal directly with Russian-American relations. But I think there has of course been some dissatisfaction among the opposition in the United States with the energetic way in which the Clinton administration has acted in developing relations with Russia; with the fact that the United States has established such good relations with the Russian Federation; and with the fact that the development of relations with Russia occupies such a major place in the policy of the Clinton administration.

Maybe Yugoslavia and Bosnia played a certain part here as well, but that is probably only one feature in the general picture of Russo-American relations.

Iraqi Official Delivers Speech at LDPR Congress

JN0204211194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has relayed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the chairman and members of the fifth congress of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR], which began its work in Moscow today.

In a speech delivered at the congress, comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur said: It pleases me to relay the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn, as well as those of the steadfast Iraqi people, and the cadres of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party cadres to the leaders and cadres of your party and the friendly Russian people. The Ba'th Party wishes every success for the congress in its efforts to achieve the LDPR's objectives in the interest of Russia and its future.

'Abd-al-Ghafur added: The LDPR congress is being held under complicated international circumstances, in which world peoples are resisting all that has been brought by the so-called new world order; namely, the U.S. attempts to dominate the world, and the double standards employed in handling the issues of international legitimacy, democracy, and human rights, and abusing these values to interfere in the domestic affairs of world peoples and deny them the right to lead the free and decent life they deserve, not to mention the use of the United Nations to oppress world peoples in violation of the UN Charter and international conventions through the enforcement of embargoes against world peoples to achieve selfish and rancorous political objectives.

'Abd-al-Ghafur noted that the Iraqi people have been suffering from an unfair and tyrannical embargo for the past four years because they are determined to walk the path they have chosen, and also because they are opposed to U.S. bids to control their resources and undermine their national sovereignty. He noted that the enforcement of the embargo against Iraq is a form of international dictatorship practiced by the United States against the world community and the United Nations in order to achieve its objective of domination.

'Abd-al-Ghafur called for the lifting of the economic embargo clamped on the Iraqi people, saying: Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments per the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, even though they are unfair resolutions, at a time when the Council has failed to honor its commitments toward Iraq due to U.S. interference. This has been clearly manifest during the recent UN Security Council deliberations. For the first time, there has been a rift among the UN Security Council members, particularly the permanent members. The positions of Russia, the PRC, and France were marked by a measure of objectivity. These positions marked a departure from the U.S. position, and insisted that Iraq be granted some of its rights by way of implementing Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687, which allows Iraq to export its oil.

The Iraqi official hoped that Russia's recent position at the UN Security Council will be promoted and become more effective to help lift the embargo and end the sufferings of the Iraqi people. He asked the congress to attach special attention to the issue of enforcing embargoes on peoples as a means to achieve political objectives to the detriment of these peoples' interests. He also urged the conferees to come up with decisions and recommendations demanding an end to the embargo clamped on the Iraqi people, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments.

The Ba'th official commended the struggle being waged by the Russian people to uphold their dignity, sovereignty,

and independent decisionmaking, as well as their rejection of attempts to impose custodianship and domination on them and the attempts being made by some international forces that profess false concern for them and their future at a time when they seek to weaken Russia, because it is not in their interest to see Russia reemerge as a powerful country occupying its deserved position and standing in today's world.

'Abd-al-Ghafur stressed that the Iraqi people will never abandon their freedom, dignity, independence, and their right to walk the path they have chosen to ensure their livelihood, because they are well aware that people who are stripped of their dignity, freedom, and independent decisionmaking are rendered lifeless. He reaffirmed that the Iraqi people will continue their struggle and maintain their support for the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, given that he is the symbol of the struggles waged by the Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and humanity against global injustice and oppression.

This speech by the member of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party was welcomed by thunderous applause to show solidarity with the just struggle waged by the Iraqi people, and with their heroic confrontation of the forces of evil and aggression.

In an opening speech, LDPR Chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy had earlier asserted his party's total solidarity with the Iraqi leadership and people, and its support for the just struggle being waged by the Iraqi people to promote their freedom, dignity, and independence. He urged the Russian leadership, on behalf of the party and its fifth congress, to do whatever is necessary to lift all aspects of the embargo clamped on Iraq. He reiterated his party's firm position on the issue, and its persistent efforts in internal and external forums to achieve this objective, and end the Iraqi people's sufferings.

Zhirinovskiy urged his party members to close ranks and make persistent efforts to promote the great accomplishments the party has recently made, the accomplishments that have allowed it to enter the Parliament, and that will allow it to win the Russian presidency during the next elections.

The LDPR leader criticized the deteriorating situation in Russia, and held the current Russian leadership fully responsible for the current situation in the country. He also denounced the plots being concocted against his party by certain government structures in Russia. He called for enhancing the powers of the party leaders.

Some 343 delegates and 865 guests, including 14 foreign delegations, attended the congress meetings.

Among the most important developments seen during the fifth congress was a decision to hold the party congress every three years, and a decision authorizing the congress to elect the party leader, whereas the party leader shall appoint the party command members and his close aides.

Zhirinovskiy Meets Iraqi Ba'th Official

JN0304160594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 3 Apr (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], in Moscow today.

At the outset of the meeting, the Ba'th Party Iraq Command member relayed the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Zhirinovskiy and the leadership of his friendly party. He also informed Zhirinovskiy that his excellency the president, the Iraqi leadership, and the Iraqi people appreciate the supportive positions Zhirinovskiy and his party have taken to enlist support for ending the unfair embargo clamped on Iraq.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur also informed Valdimir Zhirinovskiy that the situation in Iraq is stable, that the Iraqi people are rallying around the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, and that the Iraqi people are determined to break the economic embargo through patience, jihad, and constant construction.

The Ba'th Party official explained the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the continued enforcement of the unfair economic embargo clamped on them. He stressed the need for friendly nationalist parties, headed by the LDP, to make additional vigorous efforts to ensure the lifting of the embargo, and the implementation of Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687.

For his part, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy asked 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al- Ghafur to communicate his warm greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also expressed his thanks for his excellency the president for sending a personal envoy, on behalf of the Ba'th Party, to the fifth LDP congress.

Zhirinovskiy reiterated the LDP's support for the just struggle being waged by the Iraqi people, adding that his party will do its best in internal and external forums to bring about a total revocation of the economic embargo clamped on the Iraqi people.

On the sidelines of the fifth LDP congress, 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd- al-Ghafur also met with Vesiline Kuchev [name as received], chairman of the Bulgarian Liberal Democratic Party, who is attending the work of the congress.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral ties and means of promoting them in the interest of the friendly Iraqi and Bulgarian peoples.

The Ba'th official explained that Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, although they are unfair and iniquitous, at a time when the UN Security Council has failed to honor any of the provisions enshrined in Resolution 687. He urged concerted efforts by all honorable forces in the world to launch a front opposed to evil powers in the

world in order to mobilize efforts to lift the economic embargo clamped on Iraq, because it is an embargo targeting all liberation forces on the globe.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, head of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and delegation member, as well as the Iraqi ambassador to the Russian Federation.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Syrian President

LD0204180894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1655 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Zelenin and Viktor Khrekov]

[Text] Beirut, 2 Apr—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Igor Ivanov, Russian first deputy foreign minister, in Damascus today. In the course of a detailed discussion, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere traditional for the two countries, they discussed a whole range of issues of bilateral cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Both sides expressed their aspiration for the further development of bilateral ties and for filling with specific contents agreements reached in principle in various spheres of cooperation.

A sincere political dialogue on topical international and regional problems took place. The sides outlined concrete steps called upon to strengthen the trends toward making effective use of the potential of bilateral relations.

An in-depth exchange of opinions on all the problems of a Near East settlement confirmed the coincidence of approaches of Russia and Syria regarding the need for making as soon as possible real progress and energetic advance toward establishing a stable, comprehensive, and just peace in the Near East, and also along Syrian-Israeli and other lines of the talks.

President Hafiz al-Asad placed the accent on the importance of the role of Russia as co-sponsor of the peace process in the region, and of a great power closely linked historically with its peoples and countries.

The Russian side stressed that Moscow regards Syria as a key partner within the context of peacekeeping efforts. It was agreed to continue regular political contacts at all levels in the future as well, and to have a more active interaction on the main aspects of the Middle East situation.

Hafiz al-Asad received the message from President Boris Yeltsin with gratitude, and stated that the assessment and considerations of the Russian side will serve to strengthen the multilateral relations between Russia and Syria, and to ensure security and peace in the Middle East.

Russian, Turkish Interior Ministers Sign Protocol

LD0104171794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 1 April—The talks between Russian and Turkish Interior Ministers Viktor Yerin and Nahit Mentese yesterday ended in Ankara by signing a joint protocol.

The sides confirmed their agreement and resoluteness to develop cooperation between the two countries in the fight against international terrorism and drug smuggling. During the talks the decision was taken to hold a meeting of the joint commission in the very near future with the aim of stepping up mutual actions in the security field.

Speaking at the protocol signing ceremony, Mentese said strengthening cooperation between Turkey and Russia on the basis of friendship and unity of interests would be for the benefit of both states.

The Russian and Turkish Interior Ministries, Yerin said in his turn, agreed to coordinate actions in the fight against organized crime. According to the Russian minister, special attention was given to drugs and arms smuggling.

It is expected that the Russian delegation will leave Turkey today.

DPRK Officials Reportedly Attempt To Acquire Arms

LD0204103194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0940 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Apr—Several staff members of the DPRK Embassy in Moscow attempted last Wednesday to unlawfully acquire items of military equipment, an ITAR-TASS correspondent has been informed by competent sources. It is a matter precisely of items of military equipment and not of a list of Russian-made armaments, as reported by the Japanese ASAHI newspaper.

Contrary to that newspaper's claims, the embassy staff members were not arrested, since they enjoy diplomatic immunity.

As far as the essence of the incident is concerned, a statement is expected on the matter within the next few days from the public relations center of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service.

Political Issues

Rally Commemorates Oct Uprising; Over 5,000 Attend

LD0204143994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1407 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] More than 5,000 men and women are reported to have taken part in a memorial rally that was held on Saturday [2 April] some 150 meters off the building that used to house Russia's dissolved parliament and is currently housing the Russian Government, in Moscow. A number of opposition parties and movements, including the Russian Communist Workers' party, the Working Russia movement, the Army Officers' Union and the Women for the USSR movement, held the rally to pay tribute to the memory of those who were killed on October 3 and 4 in armed clashes in Moscow.

The rally declared the October butchers should not expect forgiveness. A member of the standing presidency of the Congress of Soviet People's Deputies Sazhi Umalatova, Komsomol leader Igor Maliarov and the leader of the Liberal-Socialist party Valeriy Skurlatov attended the event.

A list of the fallen was read out loud and wreaths were laid to a symbolic grave at Moscow's White House.

INTERFAX reporters heard no speaker make anti-semitic slurs although many of those who attended the rally talked about the need to purge the country of free masons and Jews".

Graffiti on a wall near the White House said Jews were a criminal organization, and not an ethnic minority.

Grachev Reflects on Army's Role

LD0204191694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] When speaking of the October events, we cannot pass by the opinion of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. It was, after all, the Army that played the decisive role in the drama.

[Grachev] We have not forgotten those terrible events, although six months have passed since then. I want to say that the Army at the time was simply obliged to act decisively and show unity and understanding. To this day the military feel and sense what happened, possibly more so than anyone else.

The sad thing is that the Army had to clean up the mess, figuratively speaking, created by political confrontation.

Once again, I want to repeat that the Armed Forces at that time prevented a civil war. I want to make it clear that the Army want to see the maximum amount of accord in society.

At the moment, accord is simply essential. Without accord there cannot be any reform, not political, economic, or cultural.

Rejects Criticism

LD0104195194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] A tense psychological atmosphere is being stirred up around the Russian Army. Attempts are being made to portray it as a crushing force, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said Friday addressing cultural workers.

Speaking about the developments in Moscow in October 1993, Grachev said that the military would never forget what happened then.

He said that the military still feels bitterness because it was forced to help solve the problems created by political confrontation. He said that in the autumn of 1993 the army "came to Moscow on the second day of the civil war in Russia."

Attitudes may be different to what happened but everyone should remember that servicemen bear a special responsibility and no-one has the right to split the army for political reasons, said Grachev.

He said that the well-known thesis "the army is outside politics" should not be understood literally as some people are trying to present. The minister said that the military, like all citizens, cannot be indifferent to the political processes going on in society.

The army does not serve parties or individual politicians, the army serves society, the country, said Grachev. He said that now some political forces are trying to take advantage of the tense social situation: the media are spreading all sorts of rumors aimed at discrediting the leadership of the country and the army.

Grachev believes that the campaigners want to split the people and make them nervous. He said that the army and navy command is showing self-control.

"I recently held a meeting of commanders of military districts and fleets and they said that no one will be able to split the army," said Grachev. He said that the army wants stability and further changes in society.

Participants Call For 'Reconciliation'

LD0304143794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408 GMT 3 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—Parties and movements of the opposition held a meeting and a mourning ceremony in Moscow on Sunday in remembrance of those killed during tragic events in Moscow in October, 1993. The column of thousands of mourners who marched

along the Krasnaya Presnya to the Russian White House was led by relatives of those killed six months ago.

The mourning ceremony continued for about half an hour. Before the ceremony began, photographs of the victims of the October 1993 tragedy in Moscow were placed on a wall of the Krasnaya Presnya stadium. Addressing all those present, speakers called for reconciliation in society.

Participants in the remembrance ceremony adopted an address to the people and authorities, pointing out, in particular, the futility of attempts to resolve political problems in Russia by means of force. Participants demanded that October 4 be proclaimed a day of national mourning and that the parliamentary commission for the investigation into the circumstances of the October 1993 developments resume its work.

Upon completion of the meeting, a religious service in remembrance of those killed was held.

Rutskoy Lays Wreath

LD0304161094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] On Sunday [3 April], after he laid wreaths to a makeshift monument to the victims of the October uprising, Russia's former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy said that instead of being seen as a tragedy of the dissolved Supreme Soviet, the uprising was to be seen as a national tragedy. According to government counts, 142 human lives were lost in the October developments.

The leader of Russia's National Salvation Front Iliya Konstantinov, a member of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin, the chairman of the Popular party off Free Russia Vasiliy Lipitskiy, a member of the State Duma Stanislav Govorukhin, members of the dissolved Supreme Soviet Oleg Rumiantsev and Gennadiy Sayenko as well as other opposition leaders who defended the building of the Russian House of Soviets on October 3 and 4, took part in the memorial ceremony in front of that building.

In Rutskoy's view, more people failed to come to their aid in October because truthful reports on what was happening were not available. Rutskoy said those who defended the national parliament were no communo-fascists. Instead, those who opened fire on the parliament were fascists. Rutskoy dubbed as shameless what Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said in a Saturday's appearance on national television. According to Grachev, the armed forces were sent in last October to cut a way through political debris.

The ex-vice-president stood for a long time with a bowed head and in silence at the monument which was designed as a wooden cross with hanging funeral bands and loops of barbed wire. Barbed wire entanglements surrounded the building of the Russian parliament in October. Asked by journalists what he felt at the moment, Rutskoy said "Ask Yeltsin".

National Salvation Front leader Iliya Konstantinov told a reporter for Interfax he intended to concentrate on organizational and analytical efforts. As well as Rutskoy, Konstantinov was arrested in the wake of the October uprising and released from the Lefortovo investigation cells on the Duma's amnesty decision.

He said that today the opposition must concentrate on preparations for the next elections to the Federal Assembly and, especially, presidential elections. He refused to name the opposition's choices by saying time would show that. President Yeltsin banned both the National Salvation Front and the Working Russia movement led by Viktor Anpilov from taking part in the parliamentary elections of last December owing to their role in the October developments.

Zhirinovskiy Given 'Dictatorial' Powers

LD0204130694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1221 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—The 5th congress of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), which opened here on Saturday [2 April], has vested party leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky with virtually dictatorial intra-party powers.

At the leader's request, the delegates unanimously voted for an extension of his powers at this post "until April 2, 2004".

The delegates also adopted amendments to the party rules.

According to the amendments, from now on LDPR congresses are to be held once in three years, not annually. They will elect only a chairman enabling him to appoint a supreme council of the party and other leading bodies, change their composition at any moment at his own discretion. [sentence as received]

For the interim between congresses, all their powers are automatically transferred to the LDPR leader.

The delegates also reaffirmed that in the event of a presidential election in Russia, Zhirinovsky still remains the party's candidate for the presidency.

The congress also adopted a resolution on the founding of a party television and radio network "Sokol Zhirinovskogo" [Zhirinovskiy's Falcon] which is called upon to disseminate "the truth about the party" under conditions of a "total news blackout".

LDPR Denies Excessive Power

LD0204184794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, one of the leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, declared to INTERFAX that the resolution of the Congress on a substantial expansion of the LDPR Chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's authorities would assist in consolidation of the party.

"We have just conducted cleansing of the party from temporary people who entered the party to satisfy their private ambitions," he noted.

Vengerovskiy called assertions stating that the LDPR turns into the party of one man as groundless. In his opinion, it is necessary to strengthen the role of the party's chairman "because the party is on the way to power." To this effect the authorities granted to Zhirinovskiy are not excessive ones because under the present situation in Russia they are necessary for the party's survival, said Vengerovskiy.

Vengerovskiy who has just returned from a trip throughout the former Yugoslavia declared that the present policy of the Russian Foreign Ministry does not meet interests of the country. "We commit a betrayal with respect to the fraternal Serbian people who are experiencing different forms of genocide," said he.

In his opinion, western special services and those who would like to make the Balkans the zone of their century long influence are waging the war on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. He said that "the most terrible fact is that Russia supports the sanctions against the Serbs." Vengerovskiy believes that Moscow should strictly occupy the positions of the Serbs and recognize the republic of Serb Krajina.

Vengerovsky qualifies Russia's joining NATO's Partnership for Peace program as "a national betrayal of the country."

Zhirinovskiy Addresses LDPR Congress in Moscow 2 Apr

LD0204143694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] The 5th Congress of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] which was opened on April 2 in Moscow approved Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's proposal to prolong his authorities as the party's chairman up to 2004. The delegates also equalled the chairman's authorities with the authorities of the Congress, reports our Interfax correspondent.

In accordance with the changes introduced into the party's charter at the Congress, within the next decade till 2004 Zhirinovskiy himself forms the LDPR supreme council and can introduce his personal changes any time he wants. The party's chairman also appoints leaderships of its regional organizations.

While addressing the Congress, Zhirinovskiy criticized the policy of Russia's present government and noted that "the longer they stay at power the more votes the LDPR will receive." Simultaneously he declared that in case of a radical change in the political course of the present administration the party could render support to President Boris Yeltsin in the interests of Russia.

In his words, the CIS has no legal basis and has no future. The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia advocates restoration of the single Russian state within the borders of the USSR of 1977.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy also asserted that at present all largest special services of the world started to struggle against the Liberal Democratic Party trying to break its leadership in order not to let it come to power in Russia.

Zhirinovskiy declared that President Boris Yeltsin should refuse from the services of his advisers who had organized his meeting with Yegor Gaydar, leader of the party Russia's Choice which does not exist yet. "Mr Gaydar should be in a prison but not in the Kremlin because he is guilty of the fact that the majority of the Russian population is living in poverty for the third year already," declared Zhirinovskiy.

The Congress also passed a decision to create a TV company of the Liberal Democratic Party.

According to representatives of the LDPR, as many as 343 delegates from 69 regional organizations and delegations of 14 foreign parties are present at the Congress. Representatives of the party Serbian National Revival, Serbian Radical Party, National Front of France, Polish National Front, and German Popular Union are among them.

A slogan Liberal Democratic Party of Russia on the Way to Power is hanging on the scene of the cinema hall of the Central House of Tourists where the Congress is being held.

Further on Zhirinovskiy's Address

LD0204174594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1320 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Apr—The fifth congress of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], which opened in Moscow today, has granted practically dictatorial internal party powers to its chairman, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. At the leader's request, the delegates unanimously voted to extend his powers in that post (without reelection) "until 2 April 2004." They also adopted a number of amendments to the rules, under which the LDPR chairman has the opportunity to appoint personally the party's Supreme Council and other leading

bodies, and to change their composition at any moment he sees fit. The delegates also confirmed that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will remain the party's candidate in the event of presidential elections being held in Russia.

The fifth congress of the LDPR also adopted a resolution on setting up the party's "Zhirinovskiy's Falcon" [Sokol Zhirinovskogo] Television and Radio Company which is to disseminate "the truth about the party" in conditions of "a complete information blockade."

Asking the congress deputies to grant him additional powers, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said that this was out of financial considerations and "intrigues by the special services" that are doing everything to destroy the party.

On the whole, the theme of Russian and foreign special services ran throughout the entire one and a half hour speech by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. According to him these "special services" offered him 100 million dollars to "leave politics." The LDPR leader is inclined to attribute their efforts to the behavior of a number of recent comrades-in-arms and members of the LDPR faction in the State Duma who recently announced their decision to leave the faction. As is known, several party members recently announced their differences with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Viktor Kobelev, until recently head of the party apparatus, was among such representatives of the LDPR. Judging from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's speech and by the decisions adopted by the congress, it has been decided to put an end once and for all to the internal party rebellion. Henceforth, to use the words of the LDPR leader, "the rebels will not be able to carry out hostile activities by playing their card of election by the congress."

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, as always, did not mince his words. He said that the LDPR's immediate task is to become the ruling party, to form a single-party government, and to occupy the post of head of state. "The political system of Russia will soon receive first aid in the form of the LDPR," he told those assembled. "The LDPR's slogan is 'The LDPR on the path to power' and we will implement it without fail," he added. "The mighty vessel of the LDPR has set sail on the expanses of the oceans and all unseaworthy tubs have been left behind," is how Vladimir Zhirinovskiy described the situation on the threshold of the future presidential elections.

The LDPR leader unambiguously defined the position of his party toward the authorities. "We are the main party in opposition to the existing regime," he stated. The government, in his opinion, "is incapable of doing anything" and the longer it remains in power "the more votes we will receive in all the subsequent elections," he stated. The LDPR leader advised the president "to give up his advisers and crew who are always putting him in an awkward situation."

National and state problems occupied quite a big place in the party leader's speech. As usual, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy expressed the readiness "to defend the interests of Russians on the territory of the former USSR." He prudently refrained from rash statements on "pushes to the south" this time, stating that coming to power, the LDPR would act only legally. Nevertheless, "the frontiers of the USSR as of 1975, recognized by the world community, will be restored and Russian flags will fly over the cities of Kazakhstan, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus, etc," Vladimir Zhirinovskiy stated. Everybody has a hobby and the LDPR leader's, to use his words, "only vice is a weakness for frontier posts: For them being in place." "If some unclean force" has moved them inside the Russian state, the task of Zhirinovskiy's party is to return them to their place, but within the framework of the law, he added.

Dwelling on the party's financial problems, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said that the pre-election campaign on the eve of last year's parliamentary elections cost the LDPR 250 million rubles and the party had just paid its debts, and in the four years of its existence, the party has spent 1 billion rubles at current prices.

At the congress, besides delegates, there are quite a few people from abroad who share Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's views—mainly representatives of various Serb organizations, and also of Iraq's ruling Ba'th party, the German People's Union, and others.

Resolution on International Affairs Adopted

LD0204181494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 2 ITAR-TASS—The congress of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] today adopted resolution on the "impermissibility of use of any forcible measures with regard to the republics of the former Yugoslavia".

The Zhirinovskiy party declared its intention "to render assistance to the peoples of Yugoslavia, and first of all to the Serbian people".

The LDPR group in the State Duma was instructed to work towards the lifting of economic sanctions against the Yugoslav republics.

Another resolution contains criticism of the "inconsistent, passive approach of the Russian ruling circles to Iraq". The party's deputies in the parliament were told to "raise the question about lifting sanctions against Iraq and secure changes in the policy pursued by the Russian diplomacy, including in the United Nations".

The congress adopted a resolution in support of a single monetary system of Russia and Byelorussia [Belarus]. The LDPR thinks that "the cost Russia may have to pay is incomparably smaller than the strategic benefits from a financial and economic alliance with Byelorussia".

Zhirinovskiy Documents Said 'Fabricated'

LD0404105394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0933 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 4 ITAR-TASS—The archival documents containing records indicating that the father of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia, was a Jew, "were fabricated by the special services of Kazakhstan, probably on personal instructions from Nursultan Nazarbayev". This was announced by LDPR press secretary Grigoriy Serebrennikov in response to ITAR-TASS request to comment on the report of the ASSOCIATED PRESS news agency.

According to AP, Zhirinovskiy appealed to the Alma city executive committee for a change of his original surname of Eidelstein and was permitted to assume his present surname in June of 1964.

"Vladimir Volfovich's enemies cannot rest in peace. This time they launched a lie about Zhirinovskiy's bearing the surname of Eidelstein until the age of eighteen, and that, consequently, he is a half-Jew. As evidence, an archival record is cited, which must have been concocted by the special services of Kazakhstan, maybe on personal instructions from Nazarbayev who recently did not allow Zhirinovskiy to come to Almaty to attend the burial of his aunt," Serebrennikov said.

Any person who is versed in Russian law in the least knows that first of all, to change one's name one must submit a request in writing. No one has a copy of such a request because they do not know whose handwriting to forge, Serebrennikov said. Secondly, every Soviet citizen is obliged to receive a Soviet passport at the age of 16. Consequently, if Vladimir Zhirinovskiy changed his surname after graduating from school, when was eighteen, he was obliged to get a new passport. No archival records of a new passport have been found anywhere," he stressed.

"In the circulated Xerox copies of a record in the register of civil status in Almaty there are many discrepancies. For instance, a wrong address is indicated. And in the so-called archival reference, the year of birth is wrong".

The press secretary of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said the main evidence of the falseness of the document was the fact that "three days before the alleged change of name, Zhirinovskiy arrived in Moscow to enter a higher school."

Yeltsin Will Not Join Presidential Party

LD0104193794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin gave his backing to the establishment of a pro-presidential party during his meeting with Russia's Choice leader Yegor Gaydar in the Kremlin on Friday. However, Yeltsin does not intend to become a member, Gaydar told journalists after the meeting.

Gaydar stressed that the new party Russia's Choice would not be a party of high officials led by the president. "Boris Yeltsin believes that no narrow party of the his supporters must be established and that is why he is not going to head it or to be a formal member," Gaydar said.

Gaydar considered the firm agreement that there would be no other presidential party other than Russia's Choice to be the most important result of the meeting. "We will coordinate our organizational activities with the president. This is necessary since there is much misunderstanding between supporters of democracy due to different initiatives on the structuring of the democratic movement," Gaydar pointed out.

Commenting on the correlation between the establishment of the president's party and the memorandum on accord, Gaydar said the significance of the agreement on civil accord was that the document speaks of the unacceptability of violence and tension in the society. However, Gaydar stressed that the head of state as a politician was not a "sterile being raised in a tube with no past or political supporters, no own views or program." He must have political allies.

Gaydar announced that the Russia's Choice faction would meet Yeltsin on Monday. The meeting is to discuss the situation in many Russian regions and the threat of administrative countermeasures. "We will also discuss issues concerning the memorandum on accord and the efficiency of the democratic forces' activities in the State Duma," Gaydar added.

The Russian president's Press Secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov, stated after the meeting that Yeltsin and Gaydar had much in common, especially in the fields of economic reform and renewal in Russia. However, he stressed that despite this the Russia's Choice Party would be independent of the president. They will closely cooperate, Kostikov suggested.

Kostikov said the coming meeting between the president and the Russia's Choice faction was the first one opening a series of meetings between the president and representatives of different blocs and parties. It was not by chance that the first meeting would be held with Russia's Choice. This shows that the president's political orientation remains the same, said Kostikov.

Yeltsin Aide on Civil Accord Draft, 1996 Elections

PM0104195194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Vyacheslav Kostikov, Russian president's press secretary, under "Politics" rubric: "'Preserving

Existing Elements of Civil Peace Is Main Aim of Agreement of Political Forces,' Russian Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov Believes"]

[Text] "Preserving the existing elements of civil peace is the main aim of the Agreement of Political Forces," Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, believes. It is that task which is the main aim behind the draft document "On Securing Civil Accord" which Russian President Boris Yeltsin gave to State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin last Thursday. Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko also received a copy of the draft, so all Federal Assembly deputies will be familiarized with it. The document is seven-and-a-half pages long. It contains sections on the economic, political, spiritual, moral, and cultural life of society, on nationalities and regional policy, and, lastly, on the terms for the fulfillment of the agreement and on the sides' liability for the violation of these terms. It would evidently be inadvisable and even harmful to envisage tough punitive measures. There is no prosecutorial tone in the draft. It is proposed to set up conciliation commissions to deal with contentious issues; these are to operate openly and submit their opinions and, if necessary, their censure of anyone's actions to public verdict. It is still hard to talk about a firm date for the signing of the agreement. The president would like to start the signing procedure in late April and has set a provisional date of 28 April. With a whole series of provisos he has also set the number of possible signatures at around 25, so that more and more political forces can subscribe to the agreement as they "mature."

People who think that Boris Yeltsin's political temperament is exhausted are mistaken. That note was struck in the assumption that he will only take part in the 1996 presidential elections as a voter. The president will not leave the helm unless he is sure he is giving it into safe hands. It cannot be ruled out that a sufficiently large proportion of the population will ask Yeltsin to run. Needless to say it will be the president himself who will make the decision, but in the meantime I would not be as hasty as some of our media in tossing this subject into our heated political life. This will only agitate society. A moratorium on political passions would be more useful. The agreement must play that role.

Zyuganov: Civic Accord Should Satisfy Both Sides

LD0104160994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] An agreement on civil peace should be acceptable to both sides, and should not contain three or four unacceptable conditions, the leader of the Russian Communist Party, Duma deputy, Gennadiy Zyuganov, told reporters on Friday.

He said that he had not read the text of the agreement submitted earlier to the State Duma. Yet he was against proposals not to introduce changes in the Constitution and not to hold elections.

Speaking about the movement known as Accord for Russia, Zyuganov said that the movement's leaders meet every week coordinating a common platform and main demands for protecting the country from a civil war and for warding off territorial and social-economic disintegration. Along with the member of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin, the former vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy and chairman of the Agrarian Party Mikhail Lapshin, he signed the movement's founding declaration.

He said that in late-April to early-May a Accord for Russia movement congress is planned which will determine its character and "attitude to all power structures." Zyuganov said that regular contacts are being maintained with Aleksandr Rutskoy. Contacts are established with leaders of the military-industrial complex, directors of large enterprises and leaders of other political movements.

Speaking about the current situation in Russia, Zyuganov said that "the Kremlin poses the main danger," currently and that "the only thing left for a hungry man to do is to steal or rebel."

Answering the question about the changes in the program of the Russian Communist Party, Zyuganov talked about the rejection of revolutionary leaps and forceful methods for solving acute problems, as well as the recognition of the fact that state ownership as the main system is inadmissible, and that the multi-structured economy is a reality.

Communists Renounce Some Marxist-Leninist Postulates

LD0104142294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1340 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—Leader of the Russian Communist Party Gennadiy Zyuganov has admitted that his party had renounced several important postulates of Marxism-Leninism.

Replying to an ITAR-TASS question during a press conference in the State Duma here today, he said that in their future programme, entitled "From Crisis to Stable Development," which is now being discussed, the Russian Communists renounce all "revolutionary leaps and forcible methods for settling problems," and also the exclusiveness of state-owned property.

"We believe that domination of only state-owned property had produced stagnation and paralysis," Zyuganov said, noting that the theses of the Russian Communist Party recognise multiple forms of economy as a reality. The communist leader mentioned "popular state patriotism" and social fairness among the bedrock principles of his party.

Asked about the work that is now being done by masterminds of the "Concord for the Sake of Russia" movement, Zyuganov said that they were daily holding consultations and have already met many scientists, heads of major enterprises of the military-industrial complex, and leaders of many parties. He did not rule out the possibility of the movement's constituent congress being held already this may. Zyuganov said that the organisational group maintained regular contact with Aleksandr Rutskoy and representatives of his party, was actively working on the movement's programme.

The communist leader spoke much more cooly about the memorandum on civil peace and concord, which is now being drawn up. Zyuganov said that the Communist Party on the whole backed the idea of achieving civil concord in the Russian society, but said he doubted that the given draft (about which he could judge only from press reports) would contribute to this end. The movement towards this goal, according to Zyuganov, should proceed "from both sides." If the drawn up draft memorandum really stipulates that the Constitution "should not be touched," the Russian Communist Party will hardly be able to sign such a document, Zyuganov stated.

Communist Party Leader Holds News Conference

LD0104215194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Passages contained within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Gennadiy Zyuganov, the leader of the Russian Communist Party, held a news conference on 1 April. He is also the initiator of the Accord for Russia movement. Over to our correspondent Yevgeniy Zherebenkov.

[Zherebenkov] The Accord for Russia movement is actively engaged in setting up organizations in the localities and is preparing to hold a congress, Gennadiy Zyuganov announced, adding that Aleksandr Rutskoy is taking part in constant consultations with the movement's leaders. Zyuganov said:

[Zyuganov] "The leaders of the movement have a weekly meeting. The general philosophical principles upon which such accord may be reached have been drawn up. Consultations have been conducted with all government structures, we are trying to find mutual understanding and are formulating our basic demands that will bring the country out of civil conflict and war, and will halt any further territorial, social, and economic collapse. We have held meetings with all those who determine the foundations of the genetic development of the nation; with representatives of fundamental science and academic science, with representatives of the military industrial complex and heads of major enterprises, and with leaders of other movements, parties, and associations. Many of our representatives, including deputies, have gone out to the localities, where they are briefing people on the essentials of the movement and tackling organizational work. I will not rule out that there will be a congress or assembly in May, which will finally work out the manifesto and nature of the movement's activities, and will define its attitude to all administrative structures, including government structures."

[Zherebenkov] Speaking about the new party in opposition to the Communists which Yegor Gaydar has set up, with the symbolic name of Russia's Choice, Gennadiy Zyuganov said the following:

[Zyuganov] "From a purely personal viewpoint, I want to tell you that the more politicians of Gaydar's type that manage various parties, the better for us."

[Zherebenkov] As for another opponent, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Gennadiy Zyuganov's position in regard to him is like this:

[Zyuganov] "He actually exists, he has his own program and policy. I repeat for all to hear: Today I will work together with anybody, no matter whom, for whom the integrity of the country and belief in our state and the welfare of every citizen is the highest value."

[Zherebenkov] All that is splendid, of course, but Gennadiy Zyuganov's desire to work together with anybody, no matter whom, puts one on one's guard.

Slav Congress Elects Zhirinovskiy President

LD0304130894 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1230 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Unity, national dignity, and independence have been proclaimed the main political principles of the World Congress of Slav, Orthodox, and Christian Peoples which took place in Moscow today. The congress proclaimed a union of Slav peoples. Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, was elected president. A Slav parliament and government was also formed.

Zhirinovskiy Seeks Union of Slavic States

LD0304162094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy stated in Moscow during the opening of the World Congress of Slavic Orthodox and Christian Peoples that a union of Eastern European Slavic states might make the 21st century an age of Slavic civilization.

He said that Western Europe had always feared the unification of Eastern European Slavic states and made efforts to prevent them from creating a union. "The time has come to stop taking instructions from Paris and London," he said.

He believes that the Balkan war was the catalyst of the idea of a Slavic union and that Russia must form up a military-political alliance in Eastern Europe.

"If the Russian troops come to the Balkans, they will never tolerate humiliation of the Slavic peoples. We shall send as many divisions to the Balkans as our Slavic brothers will ask," he said.

He emphasized at the same time, that Slavs would never become aggressors.

Leader of the Russian National Congress Aleksandr Sterligov said that the economic crisis in Russia was evolving into a catastrophe. This can be judged, he continued, from the unprecedented industrial recession and from the incompetence and inefficiency of the authorities.

Sterligov demanded that the events in Moscow last October be investigated and that their actual organizers not be allowed to evade punishment.

He said that the democrats were preparing for a civil war and were forming up armed units.

He urged the opposition to do everything they can to prevent Russian-American military exercises in the Urals.

In his opinion, the U.S. wanted to obtain information about the Russian army's combat capability so as to become better prepared from the occupation of Russia.

He said that public committees should be set up to organize actions of protest against Russian-American military exercises.

The World Congress of Slavic Orthodox and Christian Peoples is being held on the initiative of the Liberal-Democratic Party which claims that the event is being attended by delegations from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Belarus.

Working Moscow Urges Restoration of Soviet Power

LD0204183494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] On Saturday the Working Moscow movement declared that President Yeltsin's proposals for accord and civic peace were a propagandistic piece of demagoguery and that the president made a new attempt to disorient the people.

The statement by the Working Moscow was delivered to Interfax. It says civic peace will be unattainable in Russia without the restoration of Soviet power.

The Working Moscow was willing to join efforts to draw up an agreement for civic peace but different classes and social groups could reach accord only if they obeyed the provisions of constitutional law.

In the Working Moscow's view, what Yeltsin said contradicted his own constitution.

The Working Moscow quotes several provisions of constitutional law violated by Yeltsin. First and foremost, Yeltsin violated the national constitution last fall by signing Decree 1400 which did away with Soviet rule and provoked many civilian casualties.

Shumeyko, Rybkin To Sit on Security Council

MK0204100094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 5

[Ilya Bulavinov report: "Chamber Chairmen Get Invited to Security Council. President Takes on Two Unwhacked Guys To Replace Two Who Have Been"]

[Text] Security Council personnel completed the preparation of materials yesterday for a session that is supposed to discuss the situation in the zone of the Ossetia-Ingushetia conflict and the question of the Cossacks. It has been tentatively set for 6 April. This session is likely to be special because informed sources inside the Council do not rule out that the chairmen of both Federal Council chambers will be invited to attend it for the first time.

For the time being two seats remain vacant in the Security Council which are intended, under the law "On Security," for a vice president and first deputy Supreme Soviet chairman. It is the vacant seats that Boris Yeltsin obviously had in mind when he told Vladimir Shumeyko that the chairmen of the parliament chambers could take part in the Council sessions. Interestingly, the president had so far felt no urgent need to fill the vacancies in this body. More, as KOMMERSANT-DAILY has come to learn, its sessions have never before decided on any question by voting; the views of today's Council members always coincided with that of the president.

The president, nevertheless is prepared to expand the circle of like-minded people by bringing in representatives of the legislative authority. Observers believe this is not just a tribute to political decency, but is also a demonstrative gesture by the president confirming his readiness for cooperation with deputies. The snag is in which way the speakers become Council members. If the president brings them in by his edict, that would reduce their status to that of federal ministers and they would only have the right of consultative voice. The deputies would hardly like it.

The only alternative is to alter the law "On Security" by striking from the list of permanent members the no longer existing state positions and adding new ones. During the debates, the names of Aleksandr Rutskoy and Yuriy Voronin would surely surface, which would inevitably bring back memories of last fall. This has already been the case with the president's draft decree on amnesty. It is even not ruled out that as a result, the deputies would after all set up their own commission to probe into last October's events, with all the ensuing consequences.

In the meantime, as KOMMERSANT-DAILY has come to learn, it has also been recognized as expedient, in the draft agreement on national accord, to include the parliament heads in the Security Council. It also recommends that representatives of parliamentary committees be drawn into the work of the Council's interdepartmental commissions. For the time being, according to KOMMERSANT-DAILY's lights, Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin will be invited to the first session of the Council as guests of honor with no right to vote.

Barranikov's Lawyer Accuses Prosecutor-General of Bias

LD0204182894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Attorney Dmitriy Shteinberg of Russia's former Security Minister Viktor Barannikov has accused the country's acting Prosecutor-General Aleksey Ilyushenko of a biased approach to Barannikov's case. In Saturday's interview with Interfax, he said he intended to raise objections to the appointment of Ilyushenko as legal officer monitoring the Barannikov process.

In defiance of the State Duma's amnesty decision and its acceptance by Barannikov, the criminal case against the man has not been dropped. According to Shteinberg, cases have been dropped against all the other defendants in the October case in line with the Duma decision.

Shteinberg said that Ilyushenko had already indicated his approach to the case was personal and negative.

If justice was not restored soon, the attorney would have to use the media to request President Yeltsin as the chief guarantor of the citizens's rights and to the State Duma that they take emergency action to protect the former minister's constitutional rights and freedoms.

And, Shteinberg intended to brief influential Russian and international human rights organizations on the unfair treatment of Barannikov by the Prosecutor-General's Office.

Official Says Airbus Crew Not Responsible for Crash

LD0104154594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Valeriy Eksuzian, Director General of the Russian Airlines (RAL), told Interfax that the crew of the A-310-300 airliner was not to blame for the crash in the vicinity of Mezhdurechensk on March 22. Nevertheless, Eksuzian emphasized, it would be premature to make any final conclusions. What happened immediately before the crash could not be determined before the "black boxes" are completely decoded. That information must be brought from Paris to Moscow by members of the investigating commission.

Eksuzian believed that two or three days might be needed to have the full story known and determine the cause of the crash. What data was available now suggested that the situation was highly complicated.

From the analysis of the radio exchange, "the plane started to act in ways which were not programmed into the autopilot. Judging by their exclamations, the crew was initially greatly surprised." Then the plane suddenly turned left and continued spontaneous maneuvers which resulted in an abrupt plunge and the eventual crash.

The whole chain of events took two minutes and 13 seconds. The navigation equipment did not allow for sudden left turns of the plane. Eksuzian said, however, that no conclusions could be made at this moment. He said that the investigation had been joined by test pilots of the Gromov Institute in the town of Zhukovskiy, Moscow Region. It is not until the conclusions made by the test pilots and the investigation commission members are compared with the decoded data of the "black boxes" that a final judgement could be made. Eksuzian described as crude falsification the report of the French TF-1 channel which had quoted an anonymous witness as saying that none of the crew members had been present in the cockpit immediately before the crash. Eksuzian also said that a chemical analysis of internal organ and brain tissues of the crew had shown a high, about six percent, content of carbon monoxide. The gas had also been found in three or four passengers. The causes of this remained unknown, Eksuzian said.

As of today, 45 out of the 63 bodies of passengers have been identified. A total of 75 passengers and crew were killed in the crash of the plane en route from Moscow to Hongkong.

'Unauthorized Persons' in Cockpit Before Crash

LD0204141594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1301 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Apr— The press service of the Russian Government has today made public a statement by the government commission on the progress of the investigation into the circumstances of the crash of a A-310 plane near the city of Novosibirsk. It says:

"The government commission chaired by the Russian minister of transport continues investigating the accident. Experts from France and the United States have been invited to take part in the investigation as advisers.

"The debris of the plane has been evacuated from the site of the accident and is now being analyzed. Its black boxes have been sent to Paris where their decoding is being completed. According to preliminary reports, no information has been obtained suggesting that there were any defects in the aircraft, its engine, or equipment, but a final conclusion will be drawn when all analyses are completed. When the cockpit voice recorder was replayed, it was found that unauthorized persons had been present in the cockpit during the flight. Experts

have started identifying the voices and analyzing the crew's behavior during the flight and while the accident situation was developing.

"The government commission is taking the necessary measures to help the families of those who died, organize the funerals, and provide compensation for the damage caused."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Suspended Due to Debts

LD0104161594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] The publication of the newspaper Sovietskaya Rossiya has been suspended from March 31. INTERFAX was told by a spokesperson for the newspaper's editorial board that the Pressa Publishing House refuses to accept orders from the newspaper which is dubbed "Sovraska" referring to its debt to the printing shop. The paper sought subsidies at the Russian Committee for the Press to no avail. The newspaper's management does not know when the paper is likely to be printed again.

In March the newspaper's circulation totaled 450,000 copies while only 255,000 subscribers received it. In April it was planned to increase the circulation up to 500,000 and 270,000 copies correspondingly.

Following the tragic events on October 3-4, 1993, the Russian Ministry for Press and Information suspended the newspaper's publication. The Russian Court of Arbitration said the decision was illegal. The damage sustained by the editorial board was over 1,300 Mn rubles. The paper says it did not receive compensation so far.

The Communist and Agrarian factions of the State Duma appealed to the subscribers and the supporters to grant the newspaper relief aid "to prevent the people's voice from being muffled."

Chief Editor Criticizes Closure

PM0104191794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 1

[Interview with SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Chief Editor Valentin Chikin by Aleksandr Golovenko; date, place not given: "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Suspended"]

[Text] The "Pressa" Publishing House stopped printing SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA as of 31 March. This is what its chief editor, Valentin Chikin, said:

[Chikin] The pretext for the stoppage is financial. It appears that we owe the publishing house for printing work. At the same time we have not of course forgotten that the editorial office incurred losses of over 1.3 billion rubles—without a kopek's compensation—as a result of actions, deemed illegal by the court, on the part of the Ministry of the Press and the selfsame publishing house to close the newspaper in October-December 1993.

The opposition public, electoral associations, and State Duma deputies' factions have a permanent platform in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. It has repeatedly confronted the country's president, head of government V. Chernomyrdin, his deputy O. Soskovets, and the leadership of the press department with the issue of protecting the newspaper from unlawful persecution, creating the basic conditions for it to publish, and safeguarding the mass readership against insults to its human rights and political views. These appeals seemed to have met with understanding. But time passes, words remain just that, and there is still no compensation for the losses, no subsidies for the subscriber, and no concrete assistance for the editorial office.

Now, when we are all talking about civil peace and social accord, when the quest for ways of mutual understanding is under way, the closure of a popular opposition newspaper is tantamount to a stark demonstration of unwillingness to hear the voice of the people.

Suspension Warnings Sent to Dailies

LD0404091394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0816 GMT 4 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—There were no political reasons for suspending the publication of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. The reason was purely economic: the editors owe the Pressa publishing house 250 million roubles for printing services and newsprint, Pressa director Vyacheslav Leontiev told ITAR-TASS.

He explained that the newspaper had been published practically without payment since the beginning of the year. Since that time SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA received four written warnings, but failed to pay its debt to the publishing house. This is why its publication was suspended last Thursday [31 March]. Similar warnings were sent to the editors of PRAVDA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, which managed to pay their debts.

According to Leontiev, warnings will be sent today to other debtors—EKONOMIKA i ZHIZN (its debt amounts to 165 million roubles), KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA (42 million), NEUES LEBEN (11 million), SELSKAYA ZHIZN (6 million) and KULTURA (3 million). If the editorial boards do not pay their debts soon enough, the publication of those newspapers may also be suspended.

Federal Assembly

Shakhray Supports Eurasian Confederation

LD0204105694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1028 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—Following President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, who last week suggested creating a Euro-Asian Union which would include CIS countries which would opt to join it, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, known under the Russian acronym PRES, on Saturday issued a statement suggesting that a confederative union of Euro-Asian states be established.

"Not only the peoples but also many political forces in CIS countries are prepared not just to discuss the idea of creating such a union but also to tackle specific matters concerning its functioning," said the statement signed by PRES leader Sergey Shakhray.

The PRES suggests setting up an international working group to elaborate the text of a confederative agreement. The party has stated that it "takes upon itself to provide organisational and financial support for such a group's activities".

State Budget Set for Rough Passage in Duma

MK0204101094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 2

[Yelena Kolokoltseva report in the "Parliament" column: "The State Duma Will Hold Budget Hearings on Tuesday. The Majority of Factions Have Determined Their Positions"]

[Text] On Tuesday, 5 April, the State Duma is planning to hold parliamentary hearings on the draft budget, to be attended by Aleksandr Shokhin and Sergey Dubinin. In line with the Law "On Procedures for Considering and Approving the Budget," parliament hearings are not the final stage of parliamentary work on the budget. Nonetheless, most of the factions have already defined their positions. SEGODNYA reported earlier, in issue No. 60, that the 12 December group intends to support the budget.

The Russia's Choice faction is also ready to accept the budget in principle. Its leader Yegor Gaydar said in the Duma yesterday that "although it has some comments to make," his faction will support the draft. The remarks by Russia's Choice mostly relate to the estimated revenue volumes, on which point they are at one with Yabloko. Yegor Gaydar also thinks it necessary to redistribute appropriations on certain items. "We are for increasing allocations for culture, science and education, and limiting state expenditures and subventions to the territories," the former premier said.

Consensus on the revenue part of the budget is the sole instance where the positions of Russia's Choice and Yabloko coincide. As Aleksey Mikhaylov told SEGODNYA's correspondent, Yabloko intends to reject the draft budget. In Duma officialese, this means that the draft will be sent back "to be clarified by the government" and then a conciliation commission will return to its consideration, but not until new amendments have been introduced, in its second reading. Mr. Mikhaylov also believes that the "three-volume set" presented by the Finance Ministry does not correspond to the actual economic situation because it is "based on an outdated forecast of socioeconomic development." Furthermore, in his opinion, the budget does not spell out the revenue and expenditure items; it also lacks the requisite appendices.

Mikhail Zadornov confirmed his colleague's position in the State Duma yesterday. Unlike Mr. Mikhaylov, however, Mr. Zadornov, as chairman of the Budget, Taxes, Banks and Finances Committee, is in a fairly difficult situation because he is forced to confront the need to make a choice. On the one hand, he should obey the decision of his faction; on the other, he should expedite the passage of the budget through the State Duma. The role of an active budget proponent in the lower chamber, however, is being played by his deputy, Aleksandr Pochinok. Two days ago he held a prolonged discussion on this issue with Aleksandr Shokhin. It is not quite clear, though, in what capacity the latter acted—either as a member of the PRES faction or as economy minister and vice premier. So far PRES has made no final decision but, it appears, in spite of a certain unpredictability in Mr. Shakhray's behavior, it is likely to make its additions to the budget and not go as far as turn down the draft as whole.

As for the agrarians, their positions is unequivocal: "No, no and never." Mikhail Lapshin, an agrarian faction leader, said this in conversation with SEGODNYA's correspondent in so many words. The Russian Federation Communist Party and the Liberal Democratic Party factions are expected to make a decision on this question in the next few days.

Duma Factions Support Suspension of Paper

LD0104182394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—A number of State Duma factions oppcsed today Thursday's suspension of the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper's release by the Pressa Publishing House for systematic non-payments for printing services and paper.

The Communist, Agrarian and "Russian Way" Factions described the printers' demand for payment as "unlawful persecution and publishers' racket".

Regional Affairs

Reporting on North Ossetia-Ingushetia Negotiations

Ingush Leader Urges Measures To Restore Order

LD3103234594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1729 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—Ingush President Ruslan Aushev called on Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the chairmen of both houses of Russian parliament to "take urgent and effective measures to normalise the situation and restore law and order in the region" in order to "prevent a new and more bloody conflict between the peoples."

The appeal said that in March 1994 the situation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict had worsened sharply and continued to deteriorate. The Ingush leadership blames the Ossetian side and believes that the work to "heighten tension in the region is well organised and guided."

A crowd twice stopped an Ingush funeral procession which headed for the cemetery in the village of Krasta in the Prigorod district of North Ossetia on Wednesday. The arrival of Vladimir Lozovoy, head of the temporary administration, and four generals did not stop them from attacking the procession with stones. Many were injured, several cars were damaged.

Meanwhile, the North Ossetian parliament extended on Thursday the state of emergency in the Prigorod, Pravoberezhniy and Mozdok districts for another two months. No decision to this effect has been adopted by the Russian president or the Federation Council, the upper house of Russia's parliament, so far.

Working Protocol Signed

LD0104210194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] The meeting of a group of experts from North Ossetia and Ingushetia held under the mediation of the head of the interim administration in the zone of the state of emergency Vladimir Lozovoy was concluded with the signing of a working protocol on Friday.

The parties agreed to hold a meeting between North Ossetian and Ingush presidents Akhsarbek Galazov and Ruslan Aushev on April 2 in Nalchik, the capital of Kabardino Balkaria.

The issue relating to the implementation of the Russian president's decree on the return of Ingush refugees to North Ossetia's Prigorodny region is to become the central one at forthcoming negotiations between the leaders of two neighboring republics.

Meanwhile, during the meeting the experts demonstrated different approaches of the Ossetian and Ingush parties towards this problem. As a result, two drafts of the agenda of Galazov's and Aushev's meeting were fixed in the final document.

The first draft presented by North Ossetia says that the meeting in Nalchik should consider the issues on principles and measures to implement Boris Yeltsin's decree stipulating the order of refugees and forced settlers return from North Ossetia and Ingushetia to the places of their permanent residence.

The second draft which was presented by the Ingush party stipulates that the meeting should consider the issue related to the fulfillment of the Russian president's decree and the complete return of refugees and all settlers from North Ossetia to the places of their permanent residence.

On April 2 Galazov and Aushev are to choose what draft will become the subject of their discussion.

In his interview with Interfax Lozovoy expressed hopes that the negotiations of the working groups held April 1 have given an impulse to the implementation of Russian president's decree on the return of refugees and forced settlers.

Leader of the Russian president's administration Sergey Filatov and Kabardino Balkarian President Valeriy Kokov are expected to attend the meeting in Nalchik.

N. Ossetian, Ingush Presidents Meet in Nalchik

LD0204133094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 2 TASS—An official meeting between the presidents of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, Akhsarbek Galazov and Ruslan Aushev, began in Nalchik at 11.00 on Saturday.

It has become known from sources close to the North Ossetian president that the situation in the state-of-emergency area is under discussion. Special attention will be devoted to the enactment of the Russian president's decree on "a procedure for the return of refugees and forced migrants to the places of their permanent residence on the territories of North Ossetian and Ingush Republics."

The Ossetian side has prepared a package of important documents connected with the implementation of the Russian president's decree for the dialogue in Nalchik. The basic principle inherent in the document is striving to maintain peace and inter-ethnic accord in the North Caucasus.

Draft Treaty Adopted; Talks Postponed to 13 Apr

LD0304183294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1743 GMT 3 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kipkeyev]

[Text] Nalchik April 3 TASS—Talks between plenipotentiary delegations of the Ingush Republic and North Ossetia have been postponed after Ingush President Ruslan Aushev and North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov urgently left for Moscow on Sunday. The talks

will be resumed on the territory of the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria on April 13-14.

Shortly before departure to Moscow head of the temporary administration on the territory of Ingushetia and North Ossetia, Vladimir Lazovoy, and Russian Deputy Minister for Affairs of Nationalities and Regional, Politics, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, gave a news conference for mass media.

Lazovoy said that as a result of a continuous discussion the sides agreed to adopt in the main a draft treaty which takes into account positions of both sides and outlines principles of the Ossetian-Ingush settlement.

During the talks an address to the people of Ingushetia and North Ossetia was adopted which contains an appeal to prevent extremism. "There are certain forces which are not interested in the settlement of the conflict," the address said. It was pointed out that the talks were held the form of a constructive dialogue carried on in a polite and respectful manner.

Chuvashia, Tatarstan Leaders Sign Communique on Ties

LD0104215794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1423 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentina Ivanova]

[Text] Cheboksary, 1 Apr—A communique was signed today in Cheboksary on the intention to strengthen and develop economic and cultural links between Chuvashia and Tatarstan. In the opinion of Nikolay Fedorov, the president of Chuvashia, and Vasiliy Likhachev, the vice president of Tatarstan, the document paves the way for the conclusion of a bilateral treaty of friendship and cooperation, which it is proposed to sign in the near future.

In their discussion of the socio-political and economic situation in Russia the sides expressed support for the reforms based on the principles of democracy, justice, and law that are being implemented. The leaders of the two republics, which are parts of the Russian Federation, consider that all contentious issues within the territory of the Russian Federation should be tackled only on the basis of negotiations.

The president of Chuvashia supported a proposal by the vice president of Tatarstan that a Euro-Asian international cooperation center be set up in Kazan. Both sides also put forward an initiative that an international project be developed in Cheboksary under the auspices of UNESCO for the purpose of preserving and developing the cultures and languages of the peoples of the Volga-Urals region.

Commission Rejects Dumping Nuclear Waste Into Sea

MK0204105094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 7

[Dmitriy Alekhin report in the "Waste" column: "Will the TNT- 5's Radioactive Cargo Get Into the Sea of Japan?"]

[Text] The sensitive issues of radiation security are fairly effective in helping politicians build their image. Naturally, when local authorities decide to rid their residents of an enhanced radiation danger source, the latter react to this as manifestation of special care being shown to them. There is nothing bad about this, yet it is not always that the best possible methods are found to resolve such problems.

As RIA Novosti reported, the radiation aboard the TNT-5 tanker, filled with radioactive waste from Pacific Fleet nuclear submarines, has deteriorated. The vessel, moored at the Zvezda plant in Bolshoy Kamen Bay, has developed a leak in its drainage, pipe, and valve system, as a result of which the radiation level in the aft engine room since the previous check (on 28 December 1993) has doubled, reaching 1,400 microroentgen/hr.

This conclusion, according to the news agency, was made yesterday by a team of specialists created on orders of the Maritime Kray administration. Experts believe that in April-May the situation could aggravate rapidly; in the end this could lead in particular to the shutdown of the Zvezda plant, which is engaged in dismantling nuclear submarines under the START II Treaty. RIA Novosti also reported, citing Yevgeniy Stomastyuk, chairman of the Maritime Kray Environmental Protection Committee, that in order to avoid a major ecological catastrophe the commission deems it expedient to dump the liquid nuclear waste aboard the TNT-5 tanker into the Sea of Japan this May.

SEGODNYA's correspondent managed to obtain a comment from employees at the State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety [Gosatomnadzor], an organization in charge of radiation safety on a Russia-wide scale. Gosatomnadzor representatives believe that because matters of ecological and radiation security come under the jurisdiction of federal authorities, such a decision by a local commission can be only of a recommendatory character. SEGODNYA's correspondent also learned that Gosatomnadzor has decided not to allow the dumping of radiative substances into the sea but to pump the liquid waste from the tanker to other vessels which are in good condition; the TNT-5 itself, after corresponding treatment, will be towed to a safe place.

Conference Discusses Far East, Baykal 'Energy Crisis'

OW0204102494 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0710 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Yelena Kudrina video report; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] There is and undoubtedly will always be a demand for electricity. Here we have a different type of problem: How to overcome the region's energy crisis. This was the purpose of the recent conference in Khabarovsk which discussed the problems of using small-capacity nuclear power plants in the Far East, the Far North, and the Baykal regions.

We have been discussing the development of nuclear energy in the Far East region for a long time. The energy crisis in the territory forces us to return to this subject. It has been a pressing problem for a quite some time, but because of financial difficulties today, it has become even more complicated. If we assess the situation using Khabarovsk Kray as an example, it is enough to cite two factors to be convinced of the extreme complexity that exists in the energy situation. The supply of gas from Sakhalin has been reduced twofold. Our own local coal supply provides less than 4 percent of the requirement, and the rest of the coal is brought in. We are critically short of the money needed to buy the coal. [video shows meeting in session, then cuts to show V.M. Malich, chief of a department of the Vostok-Energo organization, addressing the meeting]

[Begin Malich recording] It is necessary to point out that there have been no new power-generating capabilities introduced in the Far East since 1990. Many of you in the hall here know that from 1980 to 1985, we commissioned a little less than 1,800 megawatts of power. Between 1985 and 1990 it was even less, 800 megawatts, and since 1990, nothing. That is, currently we are not commissioning anything, not even power-generating capabilities which could and should cover the capacities that are being lost. [end recording; video shows participants in the meeting]

The power engineers see the solution in the completion of the TET [heat and electric power plant], the GES [state electric power plant], and the GRES [state regional electric power plant] projects already begun—of which there are quite a few in the region—and in the building of small-capacity nuclear power plants. [video cuts to show V.T. Lebedenko, general director of the combined board of Far East nuclear power plants]

[Begin Lebedenko recording] Nuclear power generation began to develop in the form of draft projects after the government adopted decrees on measures to provide the regions with fuel and energy resources. As you might recall, the first project was for a Far East nuclear power plant, the technical and economic substantiation plant, for which was completed and handed over for checking by the experts. This year we are faced with deciding whether or not this plant is to go into operation. This is precisely where Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich [not further identified; possibly V.M. Malich] and I have a divergence of views, although I will not be adamant. [end recording; video shows meeting, a wall map entitled "Electric Power—Far East Economic Region and the Baykal Region"]

Power engineers favoring traditional fuels and those favoring nuclear power have agreed on one thing: Both were satisfied with the alternative of building small-capacity nuclear power plants in the Far East, the Far North, and the Baykal regions.

Special Energy Regime Introduced in Chita Region

LD0404081394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0748 GMT 4 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fomin]

[Text] Chita April 4 TASS— A special regime of electricity supply was introduced in the Chita region this week. Several days ago the management of the territorial branch of the Sibenergo energy generating amalgamation threatened to disconnect the eastern part of the Baykal region from the single power grid of Russia for delays in the payment of debts. Partially the threat was put into effect: Electricity supply to the Chita region from neighbouring regions was reduced almost by three times. As a result of it, a schedule of switching off cities and districts one after another began to be implemented today. Industrial enterprises are being supplied with electricity under an emergency regime. Freight and passenger traffic at the trans-Siberian railway line may come to a standstill.

Commenting on the situation, Valeriy Lomako, first deputy head of the regional administration, told ITAR-TASS that the local government authorities are trying to prevent a complete energy blockade of the area by holding talks with Sibenergo. A compromise has not yet been reached, because the region has no money to pay the debt, and there are no other sources of financing in sight. In the opinion of Lomako, the conflict between the region and Sibenergo can hardly be settled without the interference of the Russian Government.

Border Guards Relinquish Foreign Vessel Monitoring Duties

OW0404074994 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] One of the last remnants of the Iron Curtain which Russia inherited from the Soviet Union has fallen. Strict control of foreign vessels is no longer being implemented by border guards of the Nakhodka independent control and entry point. Their squads are no longer being

posted on the decks of foreign freighters tying up at moorings in Nakhodka and Vostochnyy ports.

Lengthy round-the-clock watches in any weather monitoring foreigners in all Russian ports hardly corresponds with the democratic principles of the country's development. Besides it was quite costly, so the command of border guards in Maritime Kray decided to relinquish the old methods of monitoring arriving vessels. Their crews will now carry out their own watch on the gangway in accordance with the rules of maritime service. They will also decide for themselves who to permit or not permit on board. The border guards detachments that carried out this work will now be used to guard the state border—their primary task.

B-29 Bomber, Other Aircraft Found in Maritime Kray

OW0404074494 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] A B-29 bomber, the famous American World War II aircraft better known as the Flying Fortress, has been found in the Ussuri tayga. It was found in dense forest by pilots of the Russian Dalaero company. How it got there remains a mystery, although long-time local residents recall that during the forties there were rumors going around the Far East that an American aircraft, crippled by Samurai [Japanese] fighters over the Sea of Japan, had made an attempt to reach an airfield in Maritime Kray but crashed in the tayga.

According to Vladimir Safronov, Dalaero director, the sensational find was no coincidence. One of the spheres of activity of the multifaceted Dalaero Scientific Production Association [SPA] is the search for various objects abandoned or lost in the vast tayga. During several expeditions the aviators have found a Soviet DB-3 long-range bomber; several An-2, a Yak-13, and a Yak-18E aircraft; a Mi-1, a Mi-2, and a Mi-8T helicopter, and two tractors dating to the beginning of the century. One of the tractors was built in 1903.

All of this equipment will be restored and displayed in a museum which the Dalaero SPA enthusiasts plan to open.

Chechnya Launches Warship Named Ruslan Khasbulatov

LD0104161894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] On Thursday an anti-submarine patrolling ship was launched into waters from a ship-building plant in Chechnya located down the River of Terek. Interfax's correspondents report that after the opening ceremony with traditional wishes for seaworthiness the ship's name was announced: "Ruslan Khasbulatov."

A personal envoy of the Chechen President Shamsuddi Chimayev said at a spontaneous meeting that the decision was taken by the republic's government to pay homage to the former speaker of the Russian parliament. According to Chimayev, the ship will be "the first combat vessel in the newly created naval forces of the republic." Interfax's correspondent reports that from now on March 31 will be celebrated in Chechnya as the Day of the Republic's Naval Force.

Khasbulatov, who attended the opening ceremony, thanked compatriots for their respect and invited all those present to a solemn dinner on the occasion, which will be held in his native village of Tolstoy-Yurt on Friday evening.

In the meantime, Interfax learned from confidential sources that first naval exercises are scheduled for June in the basin of Terek. In the course of the exercises, the aviation forces together with the combat vessel will be working on their interaction in the event of aggression from abroad. The exercises will also involve units of the coast guard "Abrek" and combat swimmers who will show off the art of building anti-infantry positions in the water out of available materials.

International Affairs

Kravchuk: Eurasian Initiative 'Premature'

LD0304150094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk referred to the initiative by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev concerning the formation of a Eurasian Union of the CIS countries as premature. Speaking before journalists in Kiev, Kravchuk said that this idea needs to be studied in-depth. However, he added, this should be done not by the CIS heads of state but by way of referendums. He underlined that he was against the dissolution of the Commonwealth of Independent States which, in his opinion, has not yet exhausted itself. Vladimir Shumeyko, speaker of the upper chamber of the Russian Parliament, earlier supported the initiative by the Kazakhstani president on setting up a union of CIS countries on a new basis. President of Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] Askar Akayev also approved of this idea. The official press of the other Central Asian republic—Uzbekistan—gives it a negative assessment.

Plyushch Holds 'Friendly' Talks With Russian Legislators

AU0104153794 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 31 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by the Press Center of Ukraine's Supreme Council: "A Meeting With Members of Parliament of the Russian Federation"]

[Text] Chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council I.S. Plyushch met with the chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma Committee for CIS Issues and Ties With Compatriots, K.F. Zatulin, and with a member of the Committee for International Issues, S.B. Stankevych. They are presently in Ukraine as official observers at the new parliamentary elections.

During the friendly and open conversation, topical issues of Ukrainian-Russian relations and the development of ties between CIS countries were discussed. It was stressed that they must be based upon the principles of equal partnership and mutually advantageous economic cooperation and must promote the development of friendship between the peoples of our countries.

The chairman of the Supreme Council spoke about the situation in the country and the course of the political reforms. He pointed out, in particular, that the elections of Ukraine's people's deputies had been democratic and that the citizens had played a full part. There are reasons to believe that, following the run-off elections in those electoral districts where candidates did not receive sufficient votes, there will be a new parliament in Ukraine.

The guests asked about the preparation for presidential elections and elections to local government. Having explained his position on the expediency of holding the elections in accordance with the time-table specified by the Supreme Council, Plyushch pointed out that the political reforms and the democratic processes that are under way will help stabilize the situation in society and will promote the country's emergence from the crisis. If these processes are hampered, something in which some political forces are interested, it will not be for the good of the people.

An exchange of opinions was also held on the further development of interparliamentary ties.

Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Ukraine L.Ya. Smolyakov also took part in the conversation.

Zlenko, Canadian Counterpart Review Results of Talks

LD0104181994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1450 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev—A joint news conference by Anatoliy Zlenko and Andre Ouellet, the Ukrainian and Canadian foreign ministers, took place at Ukraine's Foreign Ministry on 1 April.

Andre Ouellett announced a package of Canadian aid to Ukraine valuing $15 million to support the dismantlement of nuclear weapons and ensure nuclear safety. This package is a part of Canadian aid to Ukraine. "Canada is taking on a commitment to cooperate with Ukraine in strengthening international stability and security. This package will help Ukraine, guided by the experience of Canadian experts, to dispose of nuclear weapons," Andre Ouellett reported.

The head of the Foreign Ministry noted that Canada would assist in integrating Ukraine into the European Community, would help to take the appropriate measures for its accession to the GATT, would support Ukraine in cooperation with the IMF, and would also demand that the issue of support for Ukraine by the international community be examined at a sitting of the "Great Seven." As regards Canada's mediation, Andre Ouellett noted that "there is no necessity for this, because Ukraine will be able to defend itself."

Anatoliy Zlenko expressed gratitude to Canada's foreign minister for supporting Ukraine in the international arena and noted that Canadian-Ukrainian relations have great potential possibilities, especially in the field of military-political and trade and economic cooperation. "It is important to us to have partnership relations with Canada, the prestige of which is very influential in the world," he stressed.

Canadian Aid Package to Support Nuclear Dismantling

LD0104205194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1620 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 1 Apr—The Canadian Government is allocating 15 million Canadian dollars to assist Ukraine in dismantling nuclear weapons and ensuring nuclear safety. This was stated today at a joint news conference with Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko by his Canadian counterpart Andre Ouellett who is in Ukraine on an official visit. He stressed that this aid package is part of the West's efforts to assist in ridding Ukraine of nuclear weapons, and of support for its adherence to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

"Canada undertakes to cooperate closely with Ukraine in strengthening international stability and security," the Canadian minister said. This package will help Ukraine to get rid of nuclear weapons by introducing the experience of Canadian experts in the sphere of such pressing problems as the skillful utilization of nuclear waste, the rehabilitation of the environment, and the development of civilian nuclear systems that are dangerous." Andre Ouellett said that the package of assistance in dismantling nuclear weapons is part of the Canadian program of technical and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. It has been created to support Ukraine's changeover to the market economy, to promote the development of democracy, and to expand trade and investment ties between Ukraine and Canada.

To date, more than 60 projects in such priority areas as environmental protection, public health, strengthening the private sector, and the development of democracy have been approved. Andre Ouellett also said that he regards his visit to Ukraine as extremely successful. Important talks were held with Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, Foreign Affairs Ministers Anatoliy Zlenko, Oleh Slepichev, external economic relations minister, and Economy Minister Roman Shpek. A number of joint documents were signed determining the further development and expansion of political, economic, and trade relations between the two countries.

In the course of the visit, several cardinal projects of Canadian aid to Ukraine were announced. Their total value is assessed at 27 million Canadian dollars.

"The history of our relations is an excellent example of an international policy of mutual understanding and partnership," Anatoliy Zlenko stressed at a news conference. "Ukraine will also remember and highly value the fact that Canada was the first among the Western countries to recognize independent Ukraine and established diplomatic relations with it. We are grateful to Canada for its support for our state in the international arena. During our conversation Andre Ouellett and I discussed a wide range of issues among which: Nuclear disarmament, conversion, economic and trade ties, and the present-day political situation. It is pleasant to note that we reached mutual understanding on virtually all issues. The documents signed are proof of our resolve to continue developing mutually advantageous relations. For us it is very important to have in Canada a reliable partner. That is why we have signed perhaps for the first time in international practice a document entitled 'Declaration on Special Partner Relations Between Ukraine and Canada.' We are looking with optimism to the future of our relations and believe they will benefit our two friendly peoples," Anatoliy Zlenko stated.

EU Group Recommends Nuclear Plant Training Center

LD0104182894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Members of the European Union Commission have ended a fact finding mission to Ukrainian nuclear power plants by concluding that Kiev needs assistance in setting up a national training center, special literature and equipment for personnel training. They recommend that G-7 countries provide appropriate technical assistance to Ukraine.

The delegation visited nuclear power plants at Chernobyl, Zaporozhiye and Rovno and met representatives of the Yuzhno-Ukrainsk and Khmelitsk stations.

At a final meeting with officials of the Ukrainian state committee for nuclear energy (Gosatom), Commission members praised the Ukrainian system of personnel training, though the training scheme for operational and maintenance staff was based on outdated methods and instructions worked out while the former Soviet Union still existed.

Gosatom deputy head Nur Nigmatulin said that many of the mistakes could be avoided if local nuclear power plants had "full-scale accident simulators", but there was only one simulator, at the Zaporozhiye plant. However, he said the basic training scheme was in many ways superior to its western counterpart.

At the same time, Nigmatulin said that Ukraine was soon expected to receive such kits for the Rovno and Yuzhno-Ukrainsk plants, largely due to help from the French government. Twelve instructors will undergo training this year.

Government Begins Payment for Russian Gas Supplies

LD0104213094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2007 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Kiev April 1 TASS—A resolution of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers was issued here today to start the construction and social facilities in the Russian Federation and Ukraine in payment for natural gas delivered by the Russian Gazprom joint stock society.

The resolution instructs the Ukrainian State Committee for Oil and Gas and the Ukrstroi Corporation to start the design and complete construction of housing and social facilities in Russia and Ukraine in 1994.

Apartment houses and social facilities will be built in the town of Urengoi and the settlements of Mortka, Mezhdurechye and Kuminsky in 1994-1996. Similar facilities with an area of 20,000 square meters will be annually built in the towns of Tobolsk and Surgut.

The resolution enumerates other facilities to be built in populated localities of the Stavropol and Krasnodar territories and the Lipetsk region of Russia.

The State Committee for Oil and Gas will pay the work done by the Ukrstroi Corporation with proceeds from gas sales to Ukrainian consumers.

Landik Claims $100 Million Gas Debt Repaid

LD0104160694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Ukraine has fulfilled its obligation before Russia to pay by April 1 $100 million for Russian gas supplies, Ukrainian Vice-Premier Valentin Landik told the Interfax-Ukraine news agency on April 1. He said that the last $15 million were remitted on Thursday.

Landik noted that from now on Ukraine plans to pay for Russian gas once a decade.

Landik also said that the Ukrainian president would issue a decree soon on setting up the open joint stock company Ukrneftegaz with a controlling package of shares belonging to Ukraine. He added that Kiev "can consider Russia's stake in privatization of Ukrneftegaz not more than 30 percent."

According to Landik, Ukraine intends to offer its participation in privatization of oil and gas extraction enterprises in Russia. "Thus, nobody can reproach us that we are selling off Ukraine," he said.

Landik said that in April "the government will still be warning Ukrainian enterprises about the possibility of cutting off Russian gas supplies, and then the Russian Gazprom, not me, will cut off supplies."

It is expected that talks on gas supplies between the government delegations of Ukraine and Russia will resume on April 10.

National Affairs

President Kravchuk Holds News Conference 2 Apr

LD0204194794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Report on news conference by President Leonid Kravchuk with UNIAN and other unidentified correspondents at UNIAN office in Kiev on 2 April]

[Text] Kiev—[Correspondent] Judging by the results of the 27 March voting, can you forecast the outcome of the runoff election to the Supreme Council? What will your actions be, if less than 126 deputies are elected, if their number is between 126 and 300, and in the third option, over 300?

[Kravchuk] This is the first election in Ukraine as an independent state. That is why one cannot expect it to display the top hallmark of democracy, but the election did take place and was quite democratic. There were no serious conflicts in the process. There were instances of unethical conduct, but no complications in terms of rallies or strikes.

Of course, one wished the Supreme Council to be elected right away. This did not happen because of the large number of candidates. The "left" prevails among the 49 elected people's deputies, but not too greatly. The western region was the most active, electing a higher percentage of deputies than, for example, the eastern region. If you look at the next round, everything points to the dominance of the "leftist" trend. I do not wish to interpret the "left" with a minus and the "right" necessarily with a plus. We know from the experience of the current parliament that when important issues were tackled, they united intelligent and responsible people irrespective of which bloc they belonged to, "left" or "right."

I would wish for one option only—to see a Supreme Council elected and for the new Supreme Council to take the following steps: First of all, pass two constitutional laws which we no longer can live without, namely, on the local bodies of power and their area of competence, and the law on the president in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine. If these two laws are approved, the [presidential] election will take place on 26 June.

[Correspondent] Who do you think can defer the presidential election of 26 June, the new Supreme Council, or can the president do it under certain circumstances?

[Kravchuk] It would be best for the Supreme Council to do it, because this would be a legitimate step... But in order to do that, it has to be elected, and that is the most important problem.

[Correspondent] Experts remark that all the moves by Kiev aimed at confirming Crimea's status as an autonomous republic within the composition of Ukraine are used by Yuriy Meshkov to step up his rating on the wave of confrontation. With a view to this, it would be interesting to know which specific instructions did you give to Valeriy Horbatov, the newly appointed president's representative in Crimea? What influenced your choice of this man for such an important post?

[Kravchuk] I do not believe that Meshkov will be able to exploit for a long period of time our attempts at accord and cooperation. The most important thing is whether the reforms in Crimea will be a success, who will do this and in what manner, and who will assume responsibility for this. It is these very issues that we were discussing with Crimea's Vice Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov. The main thesis of the conversation was this: The

leadership of Ukraine, aware of the situation in Crimea and its specific nature and guided by the law on the delimitation of plenary powers between Crimea and Ukraine, is ready to agree to a vast economic autonomy of Crimea. We shall be looking, on the edge of our plenary powers, how far one could step either right or left, if this serves the cause. But there will be no political or military plenary powers which Crimea would like to assume. The popularized idea that Crimea should join some international structure and become a subject of international law will not be supported under any circumstances.

The decree on the appointment of Valeriy Horbatov was due to a number of circumstances. However, he is not a president's representative like, for example, in Donetsk or Lugansk Oblasts. There, the president's representative and the administration perform the functions of the executive power. That is to say, I created a mission of the president of Ukraine and appointed a permanent representative with an entirely different status.

I outlined three groups of issues for him. Firstly, control over the fulfillment of the constitutional laws, decrees, and decisions made in Ukraine and which are mandatory on the entire territory, including Crimea. Secondly, assistance to Crimea in carrying out control over the fulfillment by the central government of its decisions in relation to Crimea. Thirdly, the permanent representative in Crimea is authorized to carry out control and render assistance in relations between Crimea, as part of Ukraine, and international organizations.

For example, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is allocating money for the construction of projects in Crimea. Not a single international bank, not a single international organization will allocate money without Ukraine's consent to this. The entire financial aid to Crimea will be channeled via Ukraine, its president, and its government. If Ukraine gives consent and the money goes to Crimea, the mission will tackle this issue. Any official perception of Crimea by other states as a subject of international law is out of the question. This is why the permanent representative can fulfill such instructions as visits to the officials of foreign states for clearing up the problems which need solution.

The task of the mission will be to [ensure] accord, peace and quiet between the people of Crimea and Ukraine, so we will not allow any conflicts to happen.

As far as the appointment of, specifically, Valeriy Horbatov is concerned, it took place because he is an experienced person, dedicated to the cause and the state and he is not splitting the state into pieces. He is a patriot of the land on which he lives and this he has proved by his work.

[Correspondent] Experts believe that Belarus is going down the road of losing its state sovereignty which can mark the beginning of the restoration of the Soviet Union. How will it affect Ukraine's stand in relation to the CIS?

[Kravchuk] I will begin with two important theses. First, the Soviet Union can no longer be restored. The second theses is that the CIS was not formed as a union, and it is impossible to convert the CIS to a union on the basis of the founding documents which we signed. The CIS was the first step towards the civilized disintegration of the Soviet Union's empire.

The president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has proposed dissolving the CIS and forming a Eurasian Union. Steps towards a Eurasian Union should not be rash and ill-considered, since Ukraine, Russia, and many other countries have now joined some European structures. Our foreign minister initialled a document on partnership and cooperation with the European Union. All of the [former Soviet] states have followed this road. There would be a conflict: First, we join the European Union, then a Eurasian Union emerges. The CIS charter allows CIS membership along with membership in any European or world political and economic structures. This is a matter of formality, but if you look deeper, it is a very serious issue. The members of the European Union took 35 years to reach it, and we think we can do it in a single decision. You cannot. Without preconditions, no mechanisms or structures will work. My opinion is that we must now utilize the potential of the CIS and the potential of the relations between the states. Decisions on the next steps must be taken only in consultation with the people, with parliaments.

[Correspondent] How will the implementation of the Ukrainian-American agreements be affected if the government preserves the fixed karbovanets-dollar rate in Ukraine's system of currency regulation, which the National Bank of Ukraine and the International Monetary Fund are opposed to?

[Kravchuk] We are not talking about a fixed rate, but rather, a regulated rate. It will be agreed with the National Bank and can vary according to the situation. I think such regulation is temporary and will not be our permanent policy. I do not think a regulated rate is an obstacle to investments promised to Ukraine in the USA.

[Correspondent] What is your attitude toward the statement by People's Deputy of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma to the effect that the new policy in Ukraine should be made by people "with clean hands?"

[Kravchuk] I read this statement. The analysis of the situation made by the former prime minister, currently the president of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, was made proceeding from the realities of life. However, I see a moral problem here, which the answer to the question has led to. Attempts to shift the entire blame onto the government, the president, and other executive structures are made by the man who was in the government and who applied his efforts to what we have today.

During the "rule" of Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma] prices soared dozens of times, the correlation between

the consumption fund and the accumulation fund was upset. The largest cataclysms and strikes took place at that time. The decrees by the Kuchma government upturned everything. Today I am signing guarantees to foreign firms which, for example, wish to build a terminal. After those decrees, they do not believe our laws and the most awful thing is to lose investor's trust.

One of the latest statements by Leonid Kuchma sets the aim of removing Kravchuk's "party of power" from leadership. When Vyacheslav Chornovil says this, I understand this (although he also belonged to the "party of power" being head of the Lvov Oblast council). However, the "party of power" was a "cradle" for Leonid Kuchma. The production association "Pivdenmash" [southern machine plant in Dnepropetrovsk] is a state within a state. Such a post gave everything one could get: Kuchma was a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, a deputy, a director, and a secretary of the Party committee. Even now Kuchma belongs to the "party of power," as he heads the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. Does he have any moral right to call for the removal of the "party of power?" It is not by chance that people say: "And who are the judges themselves?"

When Kuchma decided to leave the post of prime minister, we agreed that normal relations should remain between us. All of a sudden, Leonid Kuchma probably forgot he was talking with me. I have never seen anything like this happen in this world, when a man who left the post, would stir up such a "wave"... I expressed my opinion; I was silent, and now I have said this. And I will say more, if need be. [end Kravchuk]

In reply to a question by REUTER on the possibility of a split or even territorial dismemberment of Ukraine (a possibility discussed by certain political circles in Russia), Leonid Kravchuk said:

[Kravchuk] These prospects have been discussed for a long time. We are holding on, and I think, will hold out. I am mostly hoping for internal stability and, first of all, for economic measures. Secondly, I know from experience when a nation faces the problem to be or not to be, it does not take an irresponsible attitude. Donbass has voted for federalism, for the CIS (I am referring to the poll), but they did not vote for immediate action. This has to be done in a legitimate way.

For example, back in Soviet times, the Ukrainian SSR passed a law on languages recognizing Ukrainian as the state language and Russian—the language of interethnic communication.

My opinion is this: Ukraine will not lose from having two official languages. It will not cease to be an independent state. The time will come when the ground will be prepared, teachers will be trained and textbooks, literature will be published, but we will not accomplish anything in one or two years. I would not even raise this issue, or raise it in this aspect only. [end Kravchuk]

Commenting on the statement made by Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch at the poll saying that only he who is unsure of his strength is afraid of elections, Leonid Kravchuk said:

[Kravchuk] You will not make me quarrel with Ivan Stepanovych. He and I have shared and continue to share a common view on the constitutional processes. Once the Supreme Council is elected, it must pass two laws: On local power bodies and on the president... [end Kravchuk]

Leonid Kravchuk responded favorably to the question about the need for the president to have his own political party which would command a majority in parliament. In particular, Kravchuk said:

[Kravchuk] I agree with those who say that one should run in the presidential election having one's own party. If the "left" wins the Supreme Council election, it is clear that this will call for a president who supports the "left" forces. Otherwise, the president will be unable to work, haunted by various rumors and unbearable moral pressure. This is confrontation. That is why I am emphatically in favor of the idea that the president must have his own party in order to win, must a majority in parliament and work for the interests of Ukraine.

Regional Election Results Published

Cherkasy Oblast

944K0986A Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 29 Mar 94 p 1

["Election Results in Cherkasy Oblast"]

[Text] The elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine produced no outright winners in Cherkasy Oblast. The following will stand for election in the second round: in Sosnivskyy electoral district [ED] No. 419—Ivan Kukurudza (Socialist Party of Ukraine [SPU]) and Serhiy Chervonopyskyy, chairman of the Union of Soldiers-Internationalists of Ukraine and a former people's deputy of the USSR; in Dniprovskyy ED No. 418—Stanislav Hubar, professor of economics, (Democratic Party of Ukraine [DemPU]) and Mykhaylo Syrota, prorector of the Cherkasy Pedagogical Institute; in Zolotonosha ED No. 420—former Prime Minister People's Deputy of Ukraine Vitold Fokin and Serhiy Kyryachenko, director of the Rosiya State Farm; in Kaniv ED No. 421—Anatoliy Pekelnyy, chief of the personnel directorate of the National Guard, and Oleksandr Pukhkan, head of the President's Service on Territorial Affairs; in Smila e.d. No. 422—Petro Pidhornyy, collective farm chairman, and Oleksandr Katkalo, chairman of the Smila City Council; in Uman ED No. 423—Viktor Royenko (Communist Party of Ukraine [CPU]), and Ihor Domanskyy (Rukh); in Monastyryshche ED No. 424—Communist Omelyan Parubok (45.2%) and Valentyna Vasylchenko, correspondent of the *Molod Cherkashchyny* newspaper; in Zvenyhorodka ED No.

425—Serhiy Pasko, a physician, and Serhiy Trishchanyy, deputy head of the general department of the president's administration; in Talne ED No. 426—Anatoliy Kravchuk, head of an agrofirm, and Serhiy Okhremchuk, deputy procurator of the rayon (People's Deputy of Ukraine Leonid Yakovyshyn was eliminated); in Cherkasy ED No. 427—Minister of Agriculture and Food Yuriy Karasyk and Vasyl Chornovil (Rukh); in Chyhyryn ED No. 428—Ivan Vasyura (Peasant Party of Ukraine [SelPU]), a collective farm chairman, and Petro Bondarenko (People's Deputy of Ukraine Dmytro Pavlychko was eliminated); in Chornobay ED No. 429—Petro Dumeyko (SelPU) and Vasyl Nimchenko, Ukraine Supreme Court judge; in Shpola ED [no number given]—Yuriy Boyko, dean of the Church of SS. Borys and Hlib in Kiev (Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church) and Honored Artist of Ukraine, and Oleksandr Tkachenko, president of the Zemlya i lyudy [Land and People] Association and former minister of agriculture.

Lviv Oblast

944K0986B Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 29 Mar 94 pp 1-3

["Lviv Oblast: Seven Parties Can Count on Winning Seats. Communists Striving To Join This Group"]

[Text] The elections on 27 March have once again confirmed that Galicia is distinct even from its neighboring Western Ukrainian oblasts. While voters in Zakarpattya, Bukovyna [Chernivtsi Oblast], and Volyn, elected only one deputy in each of these oblasts in the first round, and not a single deputy was elected in Rivne Oblast, Lviv [Lvov] Oblast has already elected nine deputies in 23 districts, Ternopil Oblast—four in 10 districts, and Ivano-Frankivsk—a total of six in 12 districts.

However, there are differences between these three oblasts as well. In Forecarpathia [Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast], a conclusive victory over Rukh members has been scored by the "Volkovetskyy team"—a group of prominent Kiev "Vikings" (V. Pylypchuk, V. Mulyava, P. Movchan, Ye. Pronyuk), invited to run here by the chairman of the oblast council of people's deputies [Stepan Volkovetskyy] (who has long been battling the local supporters of [Vyacheslav] Chornovil, entrenched in the oblast state administration). They were joined by Stepan Volkovetskyy himself and the leader of the local Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists [KUN]. On the other hand, in Ternopil Oblast, each of four parties (Rukh, Ukrainian Republican Party [URP], KUN, and the Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA]) have so far won one seat each.

The situation in Lviv Oblast is somewhat more complicated. So far (as anticipated), those forces that put their stakes on well-known public figures have been most successful—namely, Rukh and the New Wave [Nova khvylya] Union. Outright victories were scored by the well-known deputies and Rukh members Les Tanyuk and Yaroslav Kendzyor, Viktor Pynzenyk from the New Wave Union, and Mykhaylo Kosiv and Ihor Yukhnovskyy, who cooperated with both political currents. Also in this group are Stepan Khmara, the leader of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party [UKRP], who won overwhelmingly over his long-time opponent, Mykhaylo Horyn, head of the URP, as is Ivan Bilas, member of KUN and a well-known military historian. The exception here was an independent candidate—Yevhen Zherebetskyy, an associate of the Academy's Institute of Ukrainian Studies, who was one of the founders of the Lviv organization of Rukh in 1989 and then lay very low in political terms for the next five years (colleagues new to this job asked this author in amazement "Who is this man?"). Another event that created a sensation was the lightning-quick victory of Ihor Koliushko, a young politician from the New Wave Union (who was also active five years ago).

However, there were losses even among the leaders. Left behind in the first round were the New Wave's Ihor Hryniv, heretofore a people's deputy, and several other of this union's favorites. The Lviv organization of Rukh lost its leader, Yuriy Klyuchkovskyy; Lyubomyra Boychyshyn of recent fame; the young and promising politician, Ihor Derzhko; yet another of its celebrities, Volodymyr Chernyak (the latter ran in Lviv Oblast against the will of the regional organization of Rukh); and a few other candidates. KUN lost General Oleksandr Rol.

Still, the "New Wave" can take comfort in the fact that People's Deputy Taras Steckiv made it to the second round, running ahead of his rival (33.9% as against 18.7%), People's Deputy Iryna Kalynets. Rukh can count on victories by People's Deputy Dmytro Chobit, deputy Rukh chairman Oleksandr Lavrynovych, and two more of its candidates. Running in the second round from KUN will be Serhiy Zhyzhko, head of the KUN secretariat, and five of his comrades-in-arms. Among those continuing to battle it out in the electoral marathon are people's deputies of Ukraine Larysa Skoryk (All-Ukrainian Rukh [VNRU] and Orest Vlokh (DemPU). Meanwhile, their independent parliamentary colleagues, Ivan Makar and Ihor Derkach, have left the race.

The URP also finds itself among the outsiders. After the defeat of its all- Ukrainian leader, its main hope lies with the economist Oleksandr Shandryuk, who fell short of outright victory in the first round in Lviv's Shevchenkivskyy electoral district by a mere 0.37%. This district serves as a perfect example of what the fragmentation of democratic forces leads to: Due to the large number of democratic candidates (which included many well-known figures), the electorate split the vote to such a degree that the Communist Oleksandr Holub was able to make it to the second round with a paltry (but guaranteed) number of votes (7.7%), while a Republican was unable to gain an outright victory in the first round.

In addition to Shandryuk, those still in the fight include Oleh Pavlyshyn, head of the oblast organization of the URP, and two other members of this party.

The UNA has good chances in Lviv Oblast. In his district, Oleh Vitovych, the regional commander of the Ukrainian National Self-Defense Force [UNSO], is leading (38.5% versus 24.5%) against Mykola Horyn, the chairman of the oblast council of people's deputies, while Yaroslav Ilyasevych, chief of staff of the same team, is leading against Zoreslava Romovska, a law professor (48.9% against 11.3%). In contrast, even the name of his legendary father, the commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army [UPA], did not help Yuriy Shukhevych, the leader of the UNA, in the elections. Presumably, voters were stopped by the candidate's age and poor health. Andriy Shkil, a young and promising politician known for his eloquence, who heads the oblast committee of the UNA, could have won in many districts of Lviv Oblast, but not in the Pivdennyi district, where he ran against the unrivaled Viktor Pynzenyk. But, based on the results of the first round in Ternopil Oblast, the UNA can count on at least three seats.

The electoral campaign of the other ultra-right party—the Social- Nationalist Party of Ukraine [SNPU]—produced almost zero results. It is unseemly to count other people's money, but judging by the number of leaflets bearing a symbol resembling a swastika (to be sure, the SNPU claims that the symbol represents a combination of the letters "I" and "N"—"national idea," the number of huge yellow banners bearing the same symbol that covered Lviv's most important buildings, and the number of evening hours bought on the local television program "Mist," one can imagine how much money was spent on the campaign by the Social-Nationalists. Nevertheless, not a single one of the SNPU's 21 candidates (including its leaders) made it to the second round—apparently their unusual emblem, black shirts, and their name, which evokes certain associations, made a different impression on the voters than what the SNPU expected. All that the Social-Nationalists are left with is taking comfort in the victory of their ally, S. Khmara, and the hope that their other ally, Iryna Kalynets, wins.

Chernivtsi Oblast

944K0986C Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 29 Mar 94 pp 3-4

["Election Results in Bukovyna"]

[Text] The seat in Chernivtsi Oblast's Kitsman ED No. 437 was won by Heorhiy Filipchuk, the head of the oblast administration of education, who ran as a candidate of the "Bukovynska zlahoda" [Bukovyna Accord] bloc (the BZ unites all the democratic organizations of the oblast).

Those who will stand for election in the second round in other districts are: in Leninskyy ED No. 431—Taras Kyyak, professor of Chernivtsi State University and chairman of the oblast organization of the DemPU, and Volodymyr Dovheshko, first secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU; in Pershotravnevyy ED No. 432—Ostap Yuriychuk, the head of the oblast organization of the URP, and Volodymyr Kulish (they won over Hryhoriy Halyts, director of the press center of the oblast state administration, and Lyudmyla Dodonova, first secretary of the oblast committee of the SPU); in Hlyboka ED No. 434—Ivan Popesku, lecturer at the department of Russian language at Chernivtsi University and member of the Eminesku Rumanian Language and Culture Society, and Korneliy Nikitovych, deputy head of the oblast administration of education; in Zastavna ED No. 435—Heorhiy Manchulenko, head of the regional organization of Rukh, and Mykola Ivanovych, chief of the Khotyn ayon department of internal affairs (they defeated People's Deputy of Ukraine Mykola Revenko, former secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU); in Kelmentsi ED No. 436—Vasyl Burlaka, head of the Sokyryany Rayon State Administration representing the BZ, and Hryhoriy Dovhanchyn, chairman of the Budovytska Peasants' Union; in Novoselytsya ED No. 438—Yuriy Buzduhan, deputy head of the department of external economic relations of the Anti-Monopoly Committee of Ukraine, member of the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine [SDPU] and "New Ukraine" [Nova Ukrayina], and Dmytro Rata.

Results in the Vyzhnytsya ED No. 433 are not available.

Mykolayiv Oblast

944K0986D Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 29 Mar 94 pp 4-5

["Election Results in Mykolayiv Oblast"]

[Text] Elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine were held in Mykolayiv Oblast. Those who will stand for election in the second round are: in Zavodskyy ED No. 283—V. Yemelyanov, department head at the oblast state administration, and H. Lukyanov (CPU), a worker; in Korabelnyy ED [no number given]—Oleksiy Yuzyuk (Union of Officers of Ukraine), colonel third grade, and People's Deputy of Ukraine Mykola Biloblodskyy; in Leninskyy ED No. 285—Oleksandra Tolstykh (Green World) and Oleh Bozhenko (CPU); in Mykolayiv city ED No. 286 -Yuriy Zaporozhets (Interregional Reform Bloc [MBR]) and Nelya Pozdnikova (CPU); in the Tsentralnyy e.d No. 287—Anatoliy Ivanyuchenko (URP) and Oleh Kiryukhin (MBR); in Voznesensk ED No. 288—Yevhen Platovskyy, state farm director, and Viktor Ivanchenko (Rukh); in Pervomaysk ED No. 289—People's Deputy of Ukraine Ivan Hrytsay, chairman of the oblast council, and I. Silenko, chief of the rayon agricultural chemicals association [raysilhospkhimiya]; in Domashivka ED [Domanivka ED] No. 290—I. Hlukh, collective farm director, and Yuriy Shklyarskyy, head of the social welfare department of the oblast state administration; in Mykolayiv rural ED No. 291—V. Palamarchuk, a CPU sympathizer, and People's Deputy of Ukraine Mykhaylo Bashkirov (CPU); in

Novyy Buh ED [no number given]—M. Chyvyuk, collective farm chairman, and Vsevolod Ilyin (supports Rukh); in Snihurivka ED No. 293—state farm directors P. Shkrabak and V. Kabak.

Poltava Oblast

944K0986E Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 29 Mar 94 p 6

["Election Results in Poltava Oblast"]

[Text] Elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine were held in the city of Poltava. Those who will stand for election in the second round are: in Kyyivskyy ED No. 317—Col. Vyacheslav Bilous (Union of Officers of Ukraine) and Leonid Osyka, deputy minister of external economic relations; in Leninskyy ED No. 318—Mykola Kulchytskyy, chairman of the regional organization of Rukh, and Col. Volodymyr Holovko, an independent candidate (former Culture Minister Larysa Khorolets was eliminated); in Zhovtnevyy ED No. 319—People's Deputy of Ukraine Vladyslav Nosov (49%) and Andriy Hryn, leader of the local UNA-UNSO (7%).

In the Kryukivskyy and Avtozavodskyy electoral districts of the city of Kremenchuk, Hryhoriy Omelchenko ("Ukrayina" bloc) and poet Viktor Teren made it to the second round with a majority of votes in each of the respective two districts.

Luhansk Oblast

944K0986F Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 29 Mar 94 p 7

["Seven Deputies Elected in Luhansk Oblast"]

[Text] Elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine were held in Luhansk Oblast. The deputies that have been elected are: in Antratsyt ED No. 241—Valentyn Yeshkov (CPU), director of the sanatorium and clinic of the Antratsyt Production Association; in Krasnodon ED No. 243—Anatoliy Levchenko (CPU), team foreman of the ore-mining Dovannaya Mine of the Krasnodonvuhillya Production Association; in Krasnyy Luk ED No. 244—Oleksiy Dmytrenko, director of the private company Feld with no party affiliation; in Sverdlovsk ED No. 249—Petro Tsybanenko (CPU), director of preconscription training at the No. 5 Secondary School in the city of Sverdlovsk; in Bilovodsk ED No. 253—Oleksandr Cherenkov (CPU), collective farm chairman; in Perevalsk ED No. 255—Dmytro Petrenko (CPU), head of the production department of the Luhanskvuhlebud Trust; in Staropilsk [Starobilsk] ED No. 259—Yuriy Donchenko (CPU), deputy chairman of the oblast committee of the automobile and road management workers trade unions.

Odessa Oblast

944K0986G Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 29 Mar 94 p 7

["Election Results in Odessa Oblast"]

[Text] The only outright winner in the elections in Odessa Oblast's rural districts was Mykhaylo Myaskovskyy, first secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU.

Those who will stand for election in the second run are: in Bilhorod- Dnistrovskyy ED No. 304—People's Deputy of Ukraine Pavlo Haltsev, a Communist sympathizer, and Viktor Honchar; in Izmayil ED No. 305—Viktor Petrov, a candidate of juridical sciences, and Ivan Marinov, collective farm chairman; in Kotovsk ED No. 306—Petro Melnyk and Serhiy Daryenko; in Bolhrad ED No. 309—V. Terzi and Viktor Nemyrovskyy; in Ivanivka ED No. 311—Liet. Gen. Volodymyr Hovorun of the Administration of Internal Affairs and Andriy Zakharyev, collective farm chairman; in Kiliya ED No. 312—Ruslan Bodelan, chairman of the oblast council, and Dmytro Todorov, representative of the Bulgarian community; in Kominternivske ED No. 313—Viktor Tytenko, collective farm chairman, and Dmytro Maksymyuk, a journalist; in Savran ED No. 314—Viktor Sokyrchak and Viktor Skrypnychenko; in Tarutyne ED No. 315—Dmytro Tyushko and Volodymyr Chemerys.

Transcarpathia

944K0986H Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 28 Mar 94 pp 2-3

["Election Results in Zakarpattya Oblast"]

[Text] People's Deputy of Ukraine Viktor Bed, chairman of the Christian People's Union of Zakarpattya and president of the Sribna Zemlya Concern, and Arsen Ukhal, head of the oblast administration of the Security Service of Ukraine, lost the election in Rakhiv ED No. 172 in Zakarpattya Oblast. Transport Minister Orest Klimpush [Klympush], a native, was elected people's deputy of Ukraine from Rakhiv (prior to the election, several new bus routes were opened in the Rakhiv region on his instructions; in contrast, three days before the election, the oblast council's newspaper, *Novyny Zakarpattya*, published a false report alleging that V. Bed had mortally injured a pedestrian with his car.)

A second round of elections will be held in the rest of the districts. In the Uzhhorod city ED No. 167, the candidates will be Vasyl Prokopets, manager of the Zakarpattya (headquarters) branch of the Lisbank, and Viktor Hornyak, president of the Ukrainian-Israeli joint venture VIN (Ivan Turyanytsya, the chairman of the Society of Subcarpathian Ruthenians, quit the race a few days before the election). Mukacheve ED No. 168—Vasyl Ulynets, first deputy chairman of the oblast state administration, and Vasyl Iltyo, first deputy chairman of the Mukacheve city executive committee. Berehove ED No.

169—Mykhaylo Tovt, chairman of the rayon state administration, and Shandor Fodov, head of the Society of Hungarian Culture of Zakarpattya. Vynohradiv ED No. 170—Elemer Kovach, a retired physician, and Serhiy Chepesh, a teacher (Stanislav Babenko, chairman of the board of directors of the Central Union of Consumer Societies of Ukraine, and Omelyan Lykhovyd, chairman of the rayon council, were defeated in this district). Irshava ED no. 171—Serhiy Ustych, first deputy chairman of the oblast state administration (one of the authors of the proposal for the free economic zone [VEZ] in Zakarpattya), and Lyubov Karavanska, employee of the House of Culture and an activist in the environmental movement. Svalyava ED No. 173—Pavlo Fedykevych, general director of the Transkarpaty Customs Free Zone Joint-Stock Company, and [no name given], lawyer with the legal-judicial firm Yuneks (people's deputies of Ukraine Mykhaylo Voloshchak, former first secretary of the CPU, and Academician Vasyl Shepa were defeated in this district). Tyacheve ED No. 174—Volodymyr Bohachyk, deputy chief physician of the rayon hospital, and Ivan Korshynskyy, physician and docent of Uzhhorod University (Ivan Shtefanyo, deputy chairman of the oblast state administration, was defeated). Uzhhorod rural ED No. 175—Mykola Kovach, chairman of the rayon organization of the Society of Hungarian Culture, and Mykhaylo Dancha, chairman of the rayon state administration (People's Deputy of Ukraine Ivan Herts, former minister of external economic relations, was defeated). Khust ED No. 176—Volodymyr Kuliy, director of the Petrol Joint Venture, and Mykhaylo Dzhanda (Rukh's candidate), dental technician.

Chernihiv Oblast

944K0986I Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 28 Mar 94 p 4

["Election Results in Chernihiv Oblast"]

[Text] Elections were held to the Supreme Council of Ukraine in Chenihiv Oblast. In Borzna ED No. 445, the winner was Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine (74%), and in Novhorod-Siverskyy ED No. 448—former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma (90%).

In other districts, the following will stand for election in the second round: in Desna ED No. 439—Oleksandr Stepanov, representative of the Interregional Reform Bloc [MBR], and Ivan Osadtsiv (Rukh); in Novozavodskyy ED No. 440—Ivan Symonenko (MBR) and Valentyn Raychenko, deputy chairman of the regional organization of Rukh; in Nizhyn ED No. 441—collective farm chairman Chumachenko (CPU) and Labor Minister Mykhaylo Kaskevych; in Pryluky ED No. 442—Valentyn Savchenko, deputy chairman of the oblast state administration, and Huz (CPU), chairman of the rayon committee of the agricultural workers trade unions; in Bakhmach ED No. 443—Chumak, deputy chairman of the rayon state administration, and Tkachenko, collective farm chairman; in Bobrovytsi ED No. 444—Petro Sheyko, chairman of the rayon state administration, and Borys Hora, chairman of the rayon council; in Kozelets ED No. 446—former Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol (47.5%) and Mykola Tush, first secretary of the rayon committee of the CPU; in Mena ED No. 447—Oleksandr Borovyk (CPU), chairman of the All-Ukrainian Council of Collective Farm Chairmen, and Otrosh, secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; in Dribkivskyy ED No. 449—Anatoliy Dron, chairman of the State Committee on the Communal Economy, and Volodymyr Molochko CPU), lecturer at the Chernihiv Pedagogical Institute; in Chernihiv ED No. 450—Henadiy Dolzhenko, first deputy chairman of the All-Ukrainian Council of Collective Farm Chairmen and first secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU, and Viktor Stratiyenko, director of the Nova Joint- Stock Company.

Zhytomyr

944K0986J Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 28 Mar 94 p 5

["Election Results in Zhytomyr"]

[Text] According to preliminary results, Volodymyr Pataridze (secretary of the oblast committee of the SPU) and Svyatoslav Vasylchuk (chairman of the regional organization of Rukh) have moved on to the second round of elections in the Korolovskyy ED No. 155 of the city of Zhytomyr. In Bohunskyy ED No. 154—Heorhiy Mozer (general director of the Krok Production and Trade Footwear Association) and Vyacheslav Dekhtiyevskyy (chairman of the oblast organization of the Congress of National Democratic Forces [KNDS]).

Rivne Oblast

944K0986K Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 28 Mar 94 pp 5-6

["Election Results in Rivne Oblast"]

[Text] On 27 March, there were no outright winners in any of Rivne Oblast's electoral districts. In Rivne's Veresnevyy ED No. 333, those moving on to the second round are Yuriy Lutsenko, representative of the Socialist Party, and Volodymyr Kovtunets, representative of Rukh (Vitaliy Korotkov, billionaire president of the Eliksyr firm, who spent a large sum of money on his election campaign; Oles Babiy, chairman of the oblast committee of the UNA; and others were defeated).

In the oblast center's Zamkovyy ED No. 334, the fight will be between the Rukh candidate, Roman Omelchuk, otaman of the Volynska Sich, and Serhiy Denysenko, shop manager at the Azot Production Association and CPU member (Serhiy Pandrak, deputy chairman of the oblast committee of the UNA, and Petro Kulchytskyy, chairman of the city's FDKM [expansion not given], were defeated).

In Dubno ED No. 335, those moving on to the second round are People's Deputy of Ukraine Vasyl Chervoniy, chairman of the regional council of Rukh, and Anatoliy Tymoshenko, chairman of the Radyvyliv rayon council. In Volodymyrets ED No. 336—Serhiy Kondryuk, civil engineer at the Rivne AES, and Vitaliy Lutsenko, former chairman of the oblast committee of the CPU.

In Hoshcha ED No. 337—Bohdan Yaroshynskyy, first deputy chairman of the rayon state administration (URP candidate), and Mykola Zinchuk, collective farm director. In Dubrovytsya ED No. 338—Mykola Khomych, lawyer with the procuracy (candidate of the pro-Rukh bloc "Choice-94" [Vybir-94]), and Ivan Prydyuk, chief engineer of the state timber enterprise [derzhlishosp].

In Zdolbuniv ED No. 339—Oleh Matkovskyy, lawyer (Rukh candidate), and Andriy Dolnyy, chairman of the rayon council. In Kostopil ED No. 340—Ivan Kuryanyk, a teacher and chairman of the rayon union of the URP, and Mykhaylo Huydash, director of the state timber enterprise (lawyer Alla Kuts, candidate of Choice-94, was defeated). In Rivne ED No. 341—People's Deputy of Ukraine Mykola Porovskyy, deputy chairman of the URP, and his long-time opponent, Volodymyr Plyutynskyy, chairman of the Zorya Agrofirm and "Hero of Socialist Labor" [punctuation as published]. In Sarny ED No. 342—Vyacheslav Demchenko, chairman of the rayon council, and Oleksandr Buryachynskyy, chairman of the board of directors of the Sarnenskyy leased enterprise (lawyer Mykola Shevchuk, candidate of Choice-94, was defeated).

Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast

944K0986L Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 28 Mar 94 p 6

["Volkovetskyy's Team Won the Election from Rukh Candidates"]

[Text] Six electoral districts in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast were won by members of "Volkovetskyy's team" (People's Deputy of Ukraine Volkovetskyy is the chairman of the oblast council)—a group of well-known political figures, invited by Volkovetskyy to run in Forecarpathia [Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast]—and their local allies, who ran in opposition to Rukh (Chornovil). People's Deputy of Ukraine Volodymyr Pylypchuk won the election in the Tsentralnyy ED No. 196 of the city of Ivano-Frankivsk (he ran against Bohdan Fedkiv, editor of the Communist newspaper; Yaroslav Shevchuk, counsellor of the oblast state administration and deputy chairman of the regional council of Rukh; Vasyl Krychun, chairman of the city's FKM [expansion not given]; Vasyl Sichko, chairman of the Ukrainian Christian Democratic Party [UKhDP]; Mykola Nedilenko, one of the leaders of the Nationalist Movement of Ukraine; and others). In Kalush ED No. 197—Gen. Volodymyr Mulyava, hetman of the Ukrainian Cossacks (he won against the first deputy minister [text ends in mid-sentence]

Turnout Figures for 3 Apr Runoff Elections; 2 Apr Result

LD0304220094

[Editorial Report] Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian at 2135 GMT on 3 April transmits a report on preliminary turnout figures for 29 constituencies where runoffs where held on 3 April, and the results of the runoff in the constituency that held the runoff on 2 April. Overall, 33 constituencies held runoffs this weekend. In Chudnovskiy Constituency, the District Electoral Commission refused to share information with UNIAR. The figures given are turnout results as received by UNIAR from District Electoral Commissions by the closing of the polls, except where a different time is indicated.

Vinnitsa Oblast: 78.5 percent had voted by 1600 in Bershadskiy Constituency No. 54;

Donetsk Oblast: 66 percent have voted in Budyenovskiy Constituency No. 107;

Zhitomir Oblast: Bogunskiy Constituency No. 154: 43,955 of 95,250 registered electors had voted by 1600;

Korolevskiy Constituency No. 155: 35.8 percent have voted, the lowest turnout in the oblast;

Berdichevskiy Cosntituency No. 156: 57.5 percent have voted in the town of Berdichev, and 81.2 percent in the rayon's rural areas;

Korostenskiy Constitutency No. 157: 65.7 percent had voted by 1600;

Andrushevskiy Constituency No. 159: 74 percent have voted;

Baranovskiy Constituency No. 160: 72.2 percent had voted by 1500;

Korostyshevskiy Constituency No. 162: 68.8 percent have voted;

Malinskiy Constituency No. 163: 67 percent had voted by 1600;

Ovruchskiy Constituency No. 164: 74.92 percent had voted by 1600;

In Chudnovskiy Constituency No. 166, M.P. Semenyuk, the Electoral Commission chairman, refused to share the information by telephone;

Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast: 53 percent had voted by 1600 in Zaliznichniy Constituency No. 195;

Kiev Oblast: 58.6 percent had voted by 1600 in Tarashchanskiy Constituency No. 225;

Ternopol Oblast: 81.8 percent have voted in Gusyatinskiy Constituency No. 360;

Kharkov Oblast: Izyumskiy Constituency No. 380: 59 percent have voted;

Kupyanskiy Constituency No. 381: 64.7 percent have voted;

Pervomayskiy Constituency No. 384: 64.3 percent have voted;

Chuguyevskiy Constituency No. 385: 68.1 percent have voted in Pechenegovskiy Rayon and 66.2 percent in Chuguyevskiy Rayon;

Bogodukhovskiy Constituency No. 387: 51.8 percent had voted by 1200;

Valkovskiy Constituency No. 388: 51.9 percent had voted by 1200;

Volchanskiy Constituency No. 389: 81.8 percent have voted;

Dergachevskiy Constituency No. 390: 50,182 of 80,520 registered electors [percentage not given] have voted;

Zmiyevskiy Constituency No. 391: 41,710 of 64,071 registered electors [percentage not given] had voted by 1600;

Krasnogradskiy Constituency No. 392: 71 percent have voted;

Kharkovskiy Constituency No. 393: 56.4 percent had voted by 1600;

Balakleyskiy Constituency No. 386: the runoff was held on 2 April, Valentyna Hoshovska, deputy presidential representative in Balakleyskiy Rayon, was elected. She won 53.372 percent of the votes against Mykhaylo Karnaukhov, an employee of the Security Service of Ukraine, who received 21.154 percent;

Khmelnitskiy Oblast: 78 percent had voted by 1600 in Izyaslavskiy Constituency No. 413;

Cherkassy Oblast: Umanskiy Constituency No. 423: 55 percent have voted;

Talnovskiy Constituency No. 426: 73.9 percent have voted;

Cherkasskiy Constituency No. 427: 64 percent have voted.

Supreme Council Deputies Elected in Kharkov Oblast

WS0404091594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Yesterday, in 33 constituencies in Vinnitsa, Donetsk, Zhitomir, Ivano-Frankovsk, Kiev, Ternopol, Kharkov, Khmelnitsk, and Cherkassk Oblasts, Ukrainian Supreme Council runoffs were held.

Some two-thirds of the electorate participated in the second round of the runoff in the Kharkov rural area. People's deputies were elected in all the constituencies. Oblast Militia Chief Oleksandr Bandurko; Prime Minister's Adviser Viktar Suslov; Borys Olkhovskiy, senior lecturer at the State Juridical Academy; kolkhoz chairmen Oleksandr Kudrevich, Oleksyy Berezhnyy, and Mykola Bychenko are among them. The Central Electoral Committee and constituencies' commissions are processing the information on the elections.

Republican Party Leader Deems Election Performance 'Defeat'

WS0104200694 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Yuriy Kril: "Election of Three Members in the First Round Means Defeat for the Republican Party"]

[Text] Nine of 23 legislative seats are already occupied. The "New Wave" Association was the most successful. From now on, its five members— I. Yukhnovskyy, V. Pynzennyk, I. Koliushko, and M. Kosiv—will represent Lvov Oblast in the Supreme Council. The Ukrainian Republican Party, however, sustained a defeat in the first round of parliamentary elections—none of its candidates won a legislative seat. Also defeated was its leader, M. Horyn, who lost to his former colleague S. Khmara. Mr. Horyn believes that the fact that only three "Republicans" qualified for the second-round election is a humiliating defeat for the party. In his words, other parties fared better "thanks to the destructive idea of fighting with Mafia, employed by Russia's Zhirinovskiy some time ago."

The slogan "Strength, Order, and Wealth," trotted out by the Ukrainian Popular Army-Ukrainian National Self-Defense during its campaign, failed to win much support among the electorate. Out of nine candidates proposed by the above organizations, only two will continue to fight in the second round.

In spite of an aggressive campaign, candidates from the so-called Ukrainian National Socialist Party (not registered officially, by the way), who ran in almost every electoral district, found themselves "off the board." Obviously, the electorate was a bit confused by their slightly extravagant uniform, including black shirts with swastikas. People could have also associated them with the "brown shirts..."

Among those who failed to garner a sufficient number of votes on the first try were L. Skoryk (23.4 percent) and I. Kalynets (18.7 percent). A. Holub, member of the Communist Party of Ukraine and "Pravda" correspondent, was the only journalist who made it to the second round. So far, the most successful Rukh members were L. Tanyuk and Ya. Kendzyor. Five more will have to brace

up for the next round. Their rivals are primarily independent candidates and members of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists.

The highest turnout on 27 March was primarily reported from rural areas. However, both city and rural residents are anxious to know one thing: Will the new legislators justify the hefty funds that the state paid—from taxpayers' pockets, naturally—to stage the elections?

'New Ukraine' Leader Denies Violating Election Law

LD0104195994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1450 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, [no date as received]—In an interview with a UNIAN correspondent on 1 April, Volodymyr Hrynyov, candidate for people's deputies at the Radyanskiy Constituency in Kharkov, chairman of the association "Nova Ukrayina" [New Ukraine], refuted the accusations by his contenders at the election—Henrikh Altunyan and Valeriy Meshcheryakov—of violating the election law of Ukraine. "The preponderance in the number of electors' votes in my favor and confident actions by my colleagues at the Interregional Bloc of Reforms irritated the contenders so much that they resorted to downright falsehoods," believes Volodymyr Hrynyov. He reported that on the [election] eve, foreseeing such actions, he submitted an appeal to the District Electoral Commission with a clear explanation of his actions in the election campaign within the framework of the law. "Now, when the Central Electoral Commission received an official telegram from Henrikh Altunyan with fictitious accusations, when Valeriy Meshcheryakov ostentatiously withdrew his candidacy 'as a sign of protest,' I will be compelled to turn to the Central Electoral Commission with a request to protect me against the slander on the part of the former candidates."

As a UNIAN correspondent learned, Volodymyr Hrynyov was planning to visit the Central Electoral Commission on 1 April.

Presidential Representative Appointed in Crimea

Gorbatov Named Kravchuk Representative

LD0104182494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] As Interfax has learned from well-informed sources in Kiev, Leonid Kravchuk signed a decree on the representation of the Ukrainian president in Crimea. The decree is dated March 31.

Valery Gorbatov, 39-year-old former president of a major agricultural firm, was appointed as the permanent representative of the Ukrainian president in Crimea. Gorbatov is a deputy of the new Ukrainian parliament.

Observers in Kiev note that during the past four years Gorbatov has been working in one of the commissions of the Crimean parliament together with the present Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov.

Envoy To 'Fulfill Control Functions'

LD0204142794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] In his interview with the agency Interfax-Ukraine Nikolay Mikhalchenko, leader of the Ukrainian president's domestic policy service, said that a corresponding decree of the republic determines the functions of the Ukrainian president's envoy in the Crimea and Valeriy Gorbatov who was recently appointed to this post is to be guided by this decree. In Mikhalchenko's words, Kravchuk's corresponding decree just fixes Gorbatov's appointment.

While explaining the functions of the Ukrainian president's envoy in the Crimea at the request of Interfax-Ukraine agency, leader of the presidential juridical service Ivan Timchenko said that "he (the envoy) will primarily fulfill control functions providing for the observance of the Ukrainian legislature and Ukraine's Constitution by the Crimean president." Timchenko added that the presidential envoy would maintain constant contacts between the central power bodies in Kiev and Simferopol.

Mikhalchenko explained that the question concerns the control over the decree On Division of Authorities between Ukraine and the Crimea both on the part of the Crimea and Ukraine. "This decree should be fulfilled both by the autonomy and the central government," underlined Mikhalchenko.

In his words, the presidential envoy in the Crimea will not be in charge for the Black Sea Fleet problem because this issue is to be considered at an inter-state level. "The leadership of the Crimean autonomy has only consultative functions in this sphere," emphasized Mikhalchenko.

Hopes for Close Relations With Meshkov

LD0204182294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] The new representative of the Ukrainian president in the Crimea Valeriy Gorbatov believes that "the mission of good will" and the work aimed "at prevention of any hearths of tension in our difficult time" are the main goals of his future activity. In his interview with the agency Interfax-Ukraine on Saturday he expressed hope that he would be able to help to the peoples of the Crimea and Ukraine "to become closer."

Valeriy Gorbatov, aged 39, was appointed to the post of the Ukrainian president's envoy in the Crimea on March 31. On March 27 he was elected deputy of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet from the Crimea. Until that time he was head of the agricultural firm named after N. Krupskaya in the Crimea's Nizhegorsk region.

In Gorbatov's words, he intends to build his relations with the Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov "on friendly terms because we do the same thing."

"If he needs my experience and knowledge to implement the Crimea's economic policy I would not refuse from my participation," declared Gorbatov. At the same time he underlined that there are "enough clever and intelligent people" who are working in the Crimean government now.

Crimean Plebiscite Confirms Results of Presidential Polls

LD0104002494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol March 31 TASS—By supporting the Rossia Bloc's programme in the Crimean plebiscite, residents confirmed the outcome of the recent presidential elections in the peninsula, newly-elected president Yuriy Meshkov told today's news conference on the results of the people's vote and Crimean parliamentary polls.

According to official results, over one million Crimean residents came to the polls, of which 78 per cent spoke in favour of restoring the provision of the 1992 Crimean Constitution stipulating that relationship between the Crimean republic and Ukraine should be regulated on the basis of a treaty and an agreement. Nearly 83 per cent of those casting their ballots in the plebiscite backed the idea of dual citizenship.

When asked about his further steps, Meshkov said the point at issue was not Crimea's independence but its economic autonomy.

Krachuk Decision To Set Up Office in Crimea Criticized

LD0204175394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1432 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Efim Schwarzmann]

[Text] Simferopol April 2 TASS—The Ukrainian president's decree on setting up his office in the Crimea was received with discontent in the Crimea. Sources among the presidential staff members told ITAR-TASS today that Leonid Kravchuk's decision was at variance with the Ukrainian law on the division of powers between the bodies of state authorities of Ukraine and the Crimean republic, which contains no provision for the setting up of a Ukrainian presidential office in the Crimea.

According to the same sources, the decree violates a clause of Article 14 of the same law, under which Ukraine acts as a guarantor of the legal status of the Crimean republic.

The decree setting up a Ukrainian presidential office in the Crimea met with a negative reaction also in the Council of Ministers of the Crimea and in the Presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet (parliament), according to the presidential staffer, Vladimir Demin.

Demin also said that the Chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, Nikolay Bagrov sent a proposal to the Ukrainian president for suspending his decree. The Crimean president's staff members said the enforcement of the decree would lead to destabilisation of the political situation in the Crimea because it contradicts the agreement on mutual respectful relations between Simferopol and Kiev.

Reliable sources told ITAR-TASS that the Crimean leadership is planning to make their viewpoint on the Ukrainian president's intention to set up an office in the Crimea in a message addressed to the presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America, as guarantors of stability in the Crimea, and to the participants in the trilateral Moscow accords signed in January during President Bill Clinton's visit to Moscow.

Kravchuk Cancels Meshkov's Resolution on Conscripts

LD0204175494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk cancelled the resolution of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov on military service of conscripts—citizens of the Crimea dated March 15.

Kravchuk's decree made public on Saturday said that Meshkov's order contradicts to Ukraine's Constitution and to the decrees on the division of authorities between the state power bodies of Ukraine and Crimea, on Ukraine's defense and military service.

The document points out that "the determination of the arms of the service stationed on the republic's territory, training and distribution of military personnel "is the competence of Ukraine's Armed Forces."

The same day Kravchuk appointed Nikolay Hlushko his envoy in Sevastopol, having released him from the post of the first deputy head of the Sevastopol city administration.

Some time earlier Kravchuk submitted Hlushko's candidacy to the city council's session for consideration, however, half of the permanent commissions of the Sevastopol city council was against his appointment.

Meshkov Calls for Demilitarization of Crimea

LD0104122294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1047 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Gradual demilitarization would be the best arrangement for the Crimea, the republic's President Yuriy Meshkov said at a news conference in Simferopol.

He was against the situation where, as he puts it, the defense units of two countries are stationed on its soil.

Meshkov said that he did not press for the independence of Crimea. He explained that he wanted the Crimean republic to be autonomous in resolving economic issues.

According to the president, 1,081,000 out of the 1,087,000 eligible voters responded to the March 27 poll. Treaty relations between the Crimea and Ukraine were supported by 78.4 percent, dual Crimean-Russian and Crimean-Ukrainian citizenship by 82.8 percent, and making the Crimean president's decrees binding on issues not yet covered by the Crimean legislation, by 77.9 percent.

Meshkov said that the elections of the Crimean parliament "bore out the results of the presidential elections and showed that the Crimean population supported the platform of the Russia bloc." He described as clumsy the allegations of certain politicians that ethnic Russians alone had voted in the elections.

Ukrainian Forces in Crimea Seen As Excessive

LD0404022394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2207 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] The Crimean president's military advisor Valeriy Kuznetsov believes that it is inexpedient for Ukraine to keep such numerous armed forces in Crimea. He told Interfax that Ukraine had a 50,000-strong contingent of land troops in Crimea.

"Crimea is overly stuffed with land forces," he said. "Given this, only the Russian Black Sea Fleet should stay to protect Crimea, Ukraine and Russia," he said. He is convinced that "Russia is strong enough to maintain a modern, reliable and combat-ready Black Sea Fleet."

Kuznetsov emphasized that the Crimean leaders were not planning to create military formations of their own, because they were simply redundant. "Besides that, we simply cannot afford them," he said.

"There are official bodies, such as the Crimean security service and interior ministry, which will maintain order and combat crime," said Kuznetsov.

Meshkov Sacks Broadcasting Chief; State TV Head Protests

LD0104224494 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2050 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 1 Apr—President of Crimea Yuriy Meshkov dismissed Valeriy Astakhov, the president of the Krym Television and Radio Company, on 31 March, although, according to the Crimean Council of Ministers regulation on the Krym State Television and Radio Company, approved at the instruction of the autonomous republic's Supreme Council, "a candidate for the post of president is nominated by the Council of Ministers and confirmed by the Supreme Council of Crimea, with the consent of the Ukrainian Television and Radio Company [Ukrteleradio], for a period of five years."

In this connection, Mykola Okhmakevych, the president of the Ukrainian Television and Radio Company, filed a resolute protest to Yuriy Meshkov. The Krym Television and Radio Company, stresses Mr. Okhmakevych in his statement, is a constituent part of the Ukrainian Television and Radio Company. According to the currently valid resolutions of Ukraine's Council of Ministers, Ukraine's Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea, decision-making on personnel issues without the involvement of the Ukrteleradio president is a gross violation. Mr. Okhmakevych suggested Yuriy Meshkov revise his decision.

Broadcasting Chief Refuses To Leave Post

LD0304170494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Valeriy Astakhov, the president of the Krym Television and Radio Company, has circulated a statement entitled: Crimean President's April Fool Joke. It says, in particular:

On 1 April this year, Mr. Hryshankov, the head of the Crimean president's administration, familiarized me with Mr. Meshkov's decree relieving me of my duties as the president of the Krym TV and Radio Company, and the decree appointing another person to this post. The reasons for my dismissal are not substantiated, while the content of the decree, from the first sentence to the last, runs counter to the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, and the current laws of Ukraine and Crimea. The decree is unlawful for a number of reasons.

Firstly, according to the provision on the Krym State Television and Radio Company, its president is appointed by the Supreme Council of Crimea for a period of five years, following the nomination of a candidate agreed with the Ukrainian Television and Radio Company and the Crimean Council of Ministers.

Secondly, at the time when the decree was signed and until today, I remain a people's deputy of the republic's Supreme Council, which is still in office, since the new Supreme Council of Crimea has not been elected yet. Yuriy Meshkov's decree has been contested by Mykola Okhamkevych, the president of the Ukrainian Television and Radio Company.

Therefore, Valeriy Astakhov stresses, I regard the decrees by the president of the Republic of Crimea as unlawful and refuse to comply with them.

Saburov Sees Parallels in Ukrainian, Crimean Economies

LD0104205694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1919 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol April 1 TASS—Bread prices have gone up by 2.5 times in the Crimea, many enterprises are idle as they have supported the lock-out announced by the Crimean Union of Businessmen to the Crimean parliament due to its unwillingness to lower production taxes.

"The Crimea duplicates the situation that has been characteristic of Ukraine for several years. The Ukrainian leadership fears unpopular reforms," Crimean Vice-Premier Yevgeniy Saburov told a news conference here today.

"The Crimean Supreme Soviet had kept the bread prices low for a long time on political reasons. The prices are no longer real, and their support has been stopped. Thus, prices went up on April 1," he said.

In the opinion of Saburov, food prices should not be curbed down but they should not jump either.

The bread price increase may influence the results of the second round of parliamentary elections, and the government hopes to ease the situation with reduced taxes on enterprises and business structures and improved banking activities and currency regulation. These measures have been coordinated with the Ukrainian president and do not run counter to the legislation, said the vice-premier.

Decrees to the effect have been prepared to be signed by President Yuriy Meshkov upon his return from Cyprus, where he left today.

Bearing in mind Saburov's statements, Chairman of the Crimean Union of Businessmen Aleksandr Dudko told the news conference the union will suspend the lock-put for two-weeks in order to enable the government to settle the taxation issue.

Kravchuk Representative Appointed to Sevastopol

LD0204182194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] In a decree, the Ukrainian president has appointed Mykola Mykhaylovych Hlushko representative of the Ukrainian president in the town of Sevastopol and has released him from the post of first deputy chairman of Sevastopol town state administration.

Russia, Private Firms 'Lure' Nuclear Scientists Away

AU0104172794 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Jobless Cyclotron"]

[Text] The Kiev Nuclear Research Institute at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences is experiencing difficult times, as with all science. Our country's only cyclotron, which cost us 15 billion karbovantsi, has remained idle for six months. There is not enough money for the energy and heating that it requires. Just as there is no money at the Academy of Sciences, the government is also in no hurry to help the scientists. The Institute's financing from the budget is only 40 percent....

As a result, there is not enough money to conduct basic studies. It is as though they have become unnecessary. Specialists, who even now are not so numerous, are looking for other jobs. For example, in Russia, where salaries are higher and where there are possibilities for advancement. However, perhaps the worst thing about this is that young people are leaving the Institute—commercial structures lure them away. In the course of time, Ukraine may find itself without nuclear specialists. At the same time, we have 15 nuclear power stations, and, by the year 2000, it is envisaged to have at least another five units commissioned.

Ministries Told To Solve Chernobyl-Related Problems Faster

LD0104212294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Today, Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk received Anton Malynovskyy, the president's representative in Zhitomir Oblast, and Ivan Kapshtyk, the president's representative in Kiev Oblast. They discussed the vital issues pertaining to implementation of the provisions of Ukraine's legislation on the social protection of the population that suffered as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. During the meeting they also discussed issues pertaining to the implementation of the other enforceable enactments relating to the Chernobyl [accident].

The president instructed relevant ministries and services, together with the oblast state administrations, to submit in the shortest possible period of time specific proposals aimed at solving these important problems. The meeting was attended by Heorhiy Hotovchyts, Ukraine's minister for the protection of the population against the after effects of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, and Vasyl Rudenko, the head of the president's service in charge of territories.

Radioactive Material Seized by Security Forces

LD0104115594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Staff members of the organized crime-fighting department of the Zaporozhye Oblast Directorate of Ukraine's Internal Affairs and Security Service have detained a 50-year old unemployed Zaporozhye resident who was carrying in his automobile two (?flasks) each containing 55 kg of (?cesium-137). Preliminary data suggests this radioactive material was stolen from a wagon at Zaporozhye-2 railway station.

Uranium Industry Lacks Safety Controls

LD0404104894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0949 GMT 4 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov April 4 TASS—The situation in the uranium industry is not controlled by anybody, said Konstantin Rudya, head of the national department for nuclear and radiation safety at the Ministry for Environmental Protection, after the end of his inspection trip to a number of uranium producing enterprises in Zheltiy Vodiy, Dnepropetrovsk region. He stressed that the extraction and processing of uranium were control-free in the region. Sanitary control authorities are not given the needed information, and there is no normative base in that sphere.

Gas Supplies to Indebted Enterprises To Cease 10 Apr

LD0104111594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] The supply of gas to enterprises in debt that cannot pay for the gas they have consumed will stop on 10 April in accordance with a resolution on enterprises' payments for natural gas, passed by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

Belarus

FRY's Jovanovic Debates Sanctions, Relations

AU0204180494 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Report by Djordje Milosevic]

[Text] Between Yugoslavia and Belarus—two brotherly Slavic countries—there is full understanding and a readiness to establish diplomatic relations and develop the most comprehensive cooperation in all spheres. This is what FRY Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic stated in Minsk today after meeting with Belaraus Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka. Jovanovic also briefed the Belarus minister on our view of the Yugoslav crisis and how the situation is developing, especially in Bosnia. Kravchanka said it was of the utmost importance to establish peace, make efforts to end the conflict in Bosnia as quickly as possible, and abolish the sanctions against Yugoslavia. Both sides agreed that the sanctions are unjust and counterproductive.

The Belarus minister stated that the visit by Vladislav Jovanovic will contribute to the development of bilateral relations. He voiced expectations that Belarus will soon pass a decision to establish diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia at the embassy level. Vladislav Jovanovic in this way ended a series of talks with Belarus officials. He previously held talks with Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich and the deputy president of the Supreme Soviet, Vladimir (Rusiakov). Both sides stressed the significance of this visit and its contribution to the development of cooperation between the two friendly nations now and especially after the abolition of sanctions against Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav minister visited Belarus at the invitation of the country's leadership. This fact also suggests a desire by both sides to promote cooperation. It is also worth mentioning that Belarus partners expressed support and solidarity with Yugoslavia, as well as their disapproval of the sanctions and their tightening and the international isolation of Yugoslavia.

CIS Experts Drafting Pact on Minority Rights

WS0104131494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic minorities were discussed by experts in the Minsk-based CIS headquarters. The aim of the session was to continue drafting a convention regulating the rights of minorities living on the CIS territory. The subject regards the recognition of their rights to set up various organizations, associations, or national groups, etc. of an educational, religious, and law protecting nature. This document is supposed to ensure the political and social stability in the CIS and avoid any national disagreements.

CSCE Views Russian, Romanian as Official Tongues

LD0204193594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0924 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau], 2 Apr—A CSCE mission believes that if the Republic of Moldova wants to move forward in the cause of unity, then it is in its own interests that it should build a reputation as a state committed to tolerance and bilingualism. Today, the CSCE mission published its report on the language problem in Moldova in the republic's press.

The document notes that the questions of whether to call its official language Moldovan or Romanian, and whether to use the Latin or the Cyrillic script lies within Moldova's jurisdiction. Moldova is to a large extent a bilingual country. It would, therefore, be both a pragmatic step and a magnanimous gesture if Russian were made the other official language alongside Romanian, the document says.

CSCE experts believe that it was pragmatism that prompted the Moldovan Parliament to give Russian the status of the language of interethnic communication. They believe that making provisions for the use of the official language and the language of interethnic communication throughout Moldova is quite sufficient to guarantee the rights of the Russian speakers.

Moldova

Army Command Seen Involved in Political Intrigue

MK0204104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by Semen Matrosov in the "Dniester Region" column: "The Scandal Around the Local 'Cheka' Chief Is Growing"]

[Text] Colonel Mikhail Bergman, commandant of the Tiraspol garrison of the 14th Russian Army, appeared on the local commercial Asket TV channel with charges against General Vadim Shevtsov, former security minister and currently chief of the Dniester Republic Security Committee. In particular Bergman presented a copy of a document on service investigation into the case of Major Antyufeyev (Vadim Shevtsov's real name—SEGODNYA) as an officer of the Riga OMON special police force. This document, signed by Shteynbrik, then head of the Latvian Internal Affairs Ministry, attributes a number of official misdemeanors to Antyufeyev. In addition, Colonel Bergman showed TV viewers a documentary film about the involvement of the Dniester Moldovan Republic's security officers, including Shevtsov, in the October 1993 events in Moscow.

The reaction from the authorities of the unrecognized Dniester Moldovan Republic to the attack by Mr. Bergman, who is engaged in a protracted propaganda war with the "corrupt top" in Tiraspol, was like lightning. The local press published letters by Antyufeyev-Shevtsov's co-officers, including the above mentioned Gen. Shteynbrik and former Riga OMON commander Sergey Parfenov. Addressing Dniester Moldovan Republic President Igor Smirnov, they unanimously defended the honor and dignity of their colleague, who was awarded an order in 1990.

Observers believe that a new peak of confrontation between the Dniester Moldovan Republic leadership and Mr. Bergman, who is seen to be a front man for 14th Army Commander Lieutenant General Lebed, is the result of a recent reorganization in the Dniester Moldovan Republic's power structures. The State Security Ministry and the Internal Affairs Ministry were merged into a single superstructure—the Committee for Republican Security headed by Vadim Shevtsov (Antyufeyev), former Riga OMON officer and chief of the Dniester state security service. Such an obvious consolidation in the positions of a person who is considered to be a personal enemy of Army commander Lebed and Col. Bergman (the latter have been working for the last year and a half to get Shevtsov removed from his post and put on trial—SEGODNYA), could not but evoke corresponding reaction from the 14th Army.

Mr. Shevtsov and his structure are the most solid base for the current Dniester Moldovan Republic leadership. Shevtsov's removal will create favorable conditions for a reshuffle in the Tiraspol top echelon and for its penetration by people amenable to General Lebed and those standing behind him.

Certification of Language Knowledge Suspended

LD0104183694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau April 1 TASS—The Moldovan Parliament suspended today a government resolution on certification of knowledge of the state language due to begin on April 2.

This was done in response to numerous appeals of labor collectives, who believe that conditions for language studies were not created in some places, Parliament Vice-Speaker Nikolay Andronik told ITAR-TASS here today. A parliamentary commission has been set up to analyze the situation. Collectives who feel themselves ready for certification can start it tomorrow.

The certification postponement was initiated by the Moldovan Parliament faction of the Socialist Party and the Unity International Movement, who think that "the lack of language knowledge on the part of the Russian-speaking population is often used to remove people from their posts, especially the high ones". In the opinion of specialists, one cannot be forced to study a language.

The Christian-Democratic Popular Front, which stands for unification with Romania, and the Bloc of Intellectuals and Farmers did not support the postponement and refused to send their delegates to the parliamentary commission.

Tajikistan

Delegation Leaves for Talks With Opposition

LD0304125594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] A Tajik Government delegation left by plane for Moscow today for talks with the opposition, with Russian mediation. The head of the delegation, Labor Minister Shukurjon Zuhurov told journalists at Dushanbe airport that he did not know which of the opposition's representatives would be at the talks in the Russian capital. He expressed the hope that an agreement would be reached at the meeting on 5 April on beginning full-scale negotiations on a settlement for Tajikistan.

Rakhmonov, Pakistanis Reach Agreements

LD0104145594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0903 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shvedov]

[Text] Delhi, 1 Apr—The Government of Pakistan will allocate Tajikistan $20 million in payment for purchasing Pakistani consumer goods. This is one of the results of the visit to Pakistan by an official delegation from Tajikistan headed by Supreme Council Chairman Emomali Rakhmonov. During the course of the talks held in Islamabad, the parties agreed to study the possibility of carrying out a joint project worth $500 million to erect a powerful electric power station in the south of Tajikistan. According to the plan, Pakistan should receive power from the station across the territory of Afghanistan.

At their meeting, the Tajik leader discussed with Pakistan's President Faruq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto a wide range of international issues concerning, among other things, the situation in central and southwest Asia. The head of the Pakistani government said, among other things, that the unstable situation in neighboring Afghanistan and Tajikistan was having a negative effect on the situation throughout the Central Asian region. Bhutto expressed the hope that the strife in these two countries would be ended as soon as possible. She also stressed that the use of military force to solve controversial problems was unacceptable both for the Tajik and Afghan peoples.

In turn, Rakhmonov said that with the start of talks in Moscow between the Tajik leadership and the opposition, the situation in the republic would undergo serious alterations toward normalization. Tajikistan will soon come out of its political and economic crisis, he declared.

Another important result of the talks held in the Pakistani capital was the signing by Tajikistan and Pakistan of a protocol on developing amicable relations between the two countries as well as an agreement to expand bilateral economic cooperation.

Rakhmonov Comments on Trip

LD0204135094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe April 2 TASS—Tajikistan Parliament Chief Imomali Rakhmonov has described the results of his three-day visit to Pakistan as highly productive. A whole package of documents and first of all a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries was signed during the talks, he said.

At a news conference on Saturday, Rakhmonov emphasised that the Tajik delegation had found understanding and interest on the part of the Pakistani side on all matters discussed. The Tajik leader devoted special attention to economic aspects of the talks, pointing out that the Pakistani Government favours closer economic cooperation with his country, particularly in hydropower engineering and road building.

The discussion of the inter-Tajik problem figured prominently during the meetings between the heads of state, the Tajik leader said. The Pakistani side welcomed Dushanbe's initiative concerning a peaceful settlement of the conflict and forthcoming talks in Moscow with representatives of the opposition with the participation of Russia and the United Nations organisation, and measures to repatriate Tajik refugees as soon as possible.

"We stated that we are prepared to launch a dialogue with any sober-minded opposition forces that are sincerely interested in the termination of the armed confrontation," Rakhmonov said.

"We do not put forward any pre-conditions except putting an end to provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border and to terrorist acts inside the country and allowing an unhindered repatriation of Tajik refugees," he said.

Speaking about the initiative proposed by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to establish a Euro-Asian union, Rakhmonov pointed out that the idea merited attention.

Opposition Militants Fire on Border Patrols

LD0204090894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0711 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe April 2 TASS—Tajik opposition militants are carrying on tactics of armed provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border. On the night of March 31 to April 1, unidentified attackers fired from automatic

weapons from a rear area on a border post of the Kazakh battalion of the peacekeeping force in Tajikistan in the sector of border picket no. 1 of the Khorog border-guarding detachment, a spokesman at the press centre of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan told ITAR-TASS on Saturday morning. The border guards returned the fire after which the attackers fled upon wounding a Kazakh serviceman.

On Friday afternoon, in the sector of border picket no. 3 of the Panj border-guarding detachment, Tajik opposition militants, who had infiltrated from the territory of Afghanistan, fired on a border patrol. There were no casualities among border guards.

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remained relatively calm on Friday night and Saturday morning.

Armenia

CIS Delegation Arrives in Yerevan

NC0104185394 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] A CIS Interparliamentary Assembly delegation lead by Medetkan Sherimkulov, chairman of Kyrgystan Supreme Council, arrived in Yerevan today. The delegation is made up by a large group of high-ranking officials, including the Russian president's special ambassador, Vladimir Kazimirov.

Soon after their arrival, talks started between the CIS parliamentarians and a delegation from the Armenian Supreme Council.

In opening the talks, Chairman of the Supreme Council Babken Ararktsyan thanked the guests for their efforts to stabilize the situation in the region.

In reply, Sherimkulov expressed thanks for the meeting held in a warm (?atmosphere), and stressed that visits to Baku and Yerevan will give the members of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly delegation the opportunity to gather in-depth information on the situation first-hand, and find various mutually-acceptable views for the solution of the Karabakh problem, which the peace mission has expressly come to examine.

The CIS delegation (?will leave) for Stepanakert.

President Reaffirms Settlement Desire

LD0104215694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1550 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Tigran Liloyan and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Yerevan, 1 Apr—Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the president of Armenia, reaffirmed his country's desire to assist in a constructive solution to the Karabakh conflict at a meeting today with a delegation from the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly. He described the Commonwealth parliamentarians' efforts as serious, responsible, and also noble. "In Armenia you will only encounter the desire to make your work easier", L. Ter-Petrosyan stressed.

Welcomes Assembly's Involvement

LD0204093594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2345 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Tigran Liloyan and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Yerevan, 2 Apr—The Armenian president welcomes the involvement of CIS parliamentarians in the quest for ways to achieve a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh. This was stated by Levon Zurabyan, the Armenian leader's press secretary. He told the ITAR-TASS correspondent some details of Levon Ter-Petrosyan's Friday evening meeting with the visiting CIS Interparliamentary Assembly delegation. The presidential spokesman said that the participants in the conversation had discussed the role that the CIS can play in achieving peace in this disturbed region.

In this connection, the president stated that Armenia pins great hopes on the Russian plan for a settlement, and in his view it would be exceptionally important therefore for the CIS to assist Russia's peacemaking efforts, the press secretary stressed. The presidential spokesman said that direct and indirect contacts between CIS parliamentarians were exceptionally important and useful.

Kazimirov on 1 Apr Talks

LD0204200694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0122 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Tigran Liloyan and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Yerevan, 2 Apr—Ambassador at Large Vladimir Kazimirov, personal envoy of the president of Russia, told the ITAR-TASS correspondents at the meeting that took place in Yerevan on Friday evening that "the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly delegation discussed the state of affairs in the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement process and some concrete practical questions connected with the continuation of work on the basis of the Russian project—the agreement on ending the conflict and on eliminating its consequences."

Can one suppose that the Russian initiative has become the dominant one in settling the situation in Karabakh? In reply to this question, Ambassador V. Kazimirov said that there should be no rivalry between the peacekeeping initiatives. What has been done is much more important than who did what.

The diplomat said that "the agreement plan proposed by Russia provides first of all, for a cease-fire and for a halt to combat actions, a mechanism guaranteeing that the possibility of them resuming is reduced to a minimum. This is to be followed by the transition to the next phase—the elimination of the main consequences of the armed conflict. That is the withdrawal of forces from the territories captured during battles, the resumption of the operation of transport and energy communications in the conflict region, and the return of refugees to rayons and populated areas that they have left, and also the continuation of the talks' process."

The Russian diplomat explained further the mechanism of the settlement initiative. "First of all," he said, "it is reinforcing the end of combat actions—the separation of troops by a large distance, especially of heavy armaments, beyond the reach of fire." The ambassador noted that disengagement forces may be in the region but this requires the agreement of all the warring sides and most

importantly, the readiness of states to allocate forces for disengaging the opposing sides. There are no such states yet. Russia is ready to take part in such a multilateral operation provided that it is acceptable for all the warring sides without exception.

Weather Delays Travel Plans

LD0204085494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0728 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Tigran Liloyan and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Yerevan, 2 Apr—Because of thick fog this morning, the CIS interparliamentary assembly's peacemaking group on achieving a Karabakh settlement was unable to fly to Stepanakert, as had been scheduled the previous day. Only a few members of the group left in automobiles for southeast Armenia. Their meeting with Nagorno-Karabakh leaders will be held either in Armenia's border areas or in a Nagorno-Karabakh village close to the Lachin corridor. The ITAR- TASS correspondent learned this at the Armenian Supreme Soviet press center.

It will probably take the parliamentarians 10 hours to travel there and back. There is a shortage of seats so no journalists are involved in the trip.

The CIS interparliamentary assembly delegation plan to return to Moscow this evening.

Assembly Seen as Helping in Conflict

NC0104211194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1443 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, April 1 (SNARK)—The Interparliament Assembly of the CIS can assist in search of the ways of peaceful settlement of Karabakh problem, Medetkan Sherimkulov, the Chairman of the Kyrghiz Supreme Soviet, said at the meeting of the Interparliament Assembly's delegation of the CIS with deputies of the Armenian parliament, in Yerevan, today.

Journalists didn't succeed to get more information about the meeting because they were pushed out from a session hall where the meeting took place.

The delegation with Special Representative of Russian President Vladimir Kazimirov and Acting Secretary of Inter-parliamentary Assembly Ivan Korotchenia met with Levon Ter-Petrosyan today. Tomorrow the delegation is going to leave for Stepanakert.

Ararktsyan Meets President, Delegation

LD0104210694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] The position of Armenia on a settlement in Nagorno Karabakh remains the same. Armenia stands for stable guaranteed armistice, lifting of the blockade of communications and only after this negotiations on the political status of Nagorno Karabakh, the Armenian Supreme Soviet's Chairman, Babken Ararktsyan, stated after the meeting between Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly's mission. The CIS mission is led by Kyrgyz Parliamentary Speaker, Meditkan Sherimkulov.

Ararktsyan was satisfied with the negotiations with the CIS mission held by the Armenian president and the Armenian Supreme Soviet.

Ararktsyan stressed that it was to give any evaluations to the negotiations first before the working groups finished discussion on the issue.

Ararktsyan suggested that the mission's activities in Nagorno Karabakh would be of great importance. The mission will leave for Nagorno Karabakh on April 2. The final stage of the mission's activities provides for trilateral negotiations between Armenian, Azerbaijani and Nagorno Karabakh representatives. Ararktsyan did not rule out that the issue might also be discussed at the CIS summit in Moscow planned for April 15.

Sherimkulov told journalists on his way to Yerevan that the meeting with Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev in Baku on Friday morning had justified his expectations. "I hoped for a frank conversation and we had it," Sherimkulov emphasized.

Commenting on the changes introduce to the schedule (the mission had intended to leave Baku for Stepanakert), Sherimkulov announced that the Karabakh party had failed to guarantee security for the mission when crossing the line of Armenian-Azerbaijani confrontation.

Sherimkulov said the mission would try to go to Karabakh from Armenia.

Delegation Holds Talks in Russia's Krasnodar

NC0104200694 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] An Armenian Government delegation headed by Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Vigen Chitechyan paid a two-day official visit to Krasnodarskiy Kray. The aim of the visit was to regulate the trade and economic ties between Armenia and Krasnodarskiy Kray, and solve the problem of air freight flights that were canceled two months ago following the crash of a plane flying from Krasnodar to Gyumri.

The delegation held a number of official and business talks with the leadership of the kray and with the representatives of various departments and organizations.

Three agreements were signed on the principles of trade and economic cooperation for 1994, on cultural, educational and scientific cooperation, and on [words indistinct] freight transportation by air.

The Armenian delegation also met with representatives of the Armenian community in the kray at the Center of National Culture in Krasnodar.

The Armenian Government delegation returned to Armenia today.

Official Discusses Karabakh With Butrus-Ghali

NC3103205094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1445 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 31 (SNARK)—The problems of the Karabakh conflict peaceful settlement and the increase of the humanitarian aid to Armenia were discussed by the UN Secretary-General Butros Butrus-Ghali and Zhirair Liparityan, the first deputy of the Armenian Foreign Minister at their meeting in New York. According to press-service of the Armenian Foreign Ministry, Butrus-Ghali said "at the UN they attentively watch events in the region and are ready to assist the development of the peaceful settlement process." The Secretary-General pointed out the importance of the meeting on the eve of his visit to Moscow.

Parliament Speaker on Karabakh, CIS Delegation

NC0104211294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1543 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, April 1 (SNARK)—The Armenia Parliament Speaker Babken Ararktsyan told during a meeting with a delegation of inter-parliament CIS assembly in Yerevan that Armenia remains a supporter of peaceful settlement of Karabakh problem. He is satisfied with the same opinion of the delegation's members.

Mr. Ararktsyan expressed hope that a visit of the inter-parliamentary assembly to the conflict zone will be an important step towards organizing of a meeting in Bishkek between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Karabakh.

Mr. Ararktsyan said "last time the Russian initiatives with constructive ways to the Karabakh problem solution find understanding." [sentence as received]

Treaty on Russian Troops Should Be Ratified Soon

LD3103221794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2007 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 31 TASS—An Armenian opposition leader urged the republican parliament to ratify the soonest possible the treaty on the legal status of Russian troops on Armenian territory, which was ratified by Russia's former Supreme Soviet a year ago.

Addressing today's meeting of representatives of Armenian political forces, focused on relations between the two countries, leader of the Ramkavar-Azatakan Party Ruben Mirzakhanyan called upon all political forces to join efforts in pressing for ratification of the treaty. This is much more important than to come up with declarations about friendship with Russia, he stressed. Mirzakhanyan recalled that his party had recently suggested putting the ratification issue on the agenda of the Armenian parliament's session, but this proposal failed to win support from lawmakers.

The opposition leader labelled as "outrageous" the fact that Armenia does not yet have its embassy in Moscow and is represented just by a permanent mission. The Armenian Embassy is to become the most important political institution, which will immediately engage in promotion and coordination of bilateral relations between Russia and Armenia, above all in the sphere of inter-state relations, Mirzakhanyan pointed out.

Agreement Signed With Border Troops Chief

OW0304083094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Video report from Yerevan by "Mir" Television Company correspondent Nune Sarkisyan; from the "Mir" Television Company segment of the "Utro" program]

[Text] A military delegation headed by Colonel General Nikolayev, commander of the Russian Federation Border Troops, has visited Yerevan. The main goal of the visit was to sign an agreement with the Armenian military in accordance with which Armenia's state border [not further specified], which is about 300 km long, will be defended by Armenian troops and Russian border troops. The agreement is the result of repeated meetings and talks between the two sides, and it gives a legal basis to the real state of affairs concerning the border troops. [video shows scenes from the talks, Col. Gen. Andrey Nikolayev being interviewed]

[Begin Nikolayev recording] It is very important for the men in uniform, the Russian border guards, and Armenian citizens that they will now be fulfilling this task together, although frankly I would like to say that we began doing this work earlier but that we did not have a sufficiently firm legal basis for this.

Today we also examined the question of the material and technical provision and the financing of the groups of border troop units, (?including) the Armenian group. [end recording]

The commander added that despite the critical situation in the republic, the Armenian Government is doing everything possible for the normal functioning of the border guards in terms of providing the necessary electric power, fuel, and food. There are sufficient quantities of arms and ammunition.

Arutyunyan Chairs Meeting on Iranian Plane Crash

NC3103204794 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Armenian Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan chaired a regular meeting of the State Commission on Coordinating Armenian-Iranian Ties on 31 March.

The meeting heard a report on the work carried out by the authorized commissions into the circumstances leading to the crash of an Iranian C-130 military transport plane over Nagorno-Karabakh on 17 March, and on the assistance provided by the Armenian authorities for discovering the causes of the tragedy.

In expressing deep regret over the unfortunate incident and human losses, it was noted that Armenia provided and is providing unreserved assistance to the experts from Iran and the authorized commission from the CIS Interstate Aviation Committee for the detailed study of all the circumstances surrounding the crash of the plane.

The transportation of the victims of the tragedy from Stepanakert to Yerevan and then to Tehran was organized on an appropriate state level.

It was also noted at the commission's meeting that the disinformation carried by some [word indistinct] news agencies and presumptive assessments of the incident are turning this tragic incident into a subject of political exploitation.

It was also stressed that many problems still needs to be finally resolved. It is evident from the testimony of the Iranian experts that the C-130 plane did not have a black box. It was also clarified that after flying for 50 minutes from Moscow, the plane's airtight seal was disrupted. As a result, it dropped 2,400 meters. But the crew decided not to return to Moscow airport and instead to continue the flight. The studies show that, in general, the plane did not enter Armenia's airspace and did not establish contact with Yerevan air-traffic controllers, despite the fact that at the initiative of the latter an attempt was made to establish contact with it through the No. 954 flight of a Russian plane. And Yerevan controllers learned from Georgian air controllers that the plane deviated from its air route and that they too lost contact with it.

It is not clear why the plane sharply deviated from its flight path after leaving Georgian territory, entered deep into Azerbaijani territory, and flew some 4,000 meters lower. The meeting expressed the hope that it will be possible to find answers to all questions after a comprehensive study of the incident by the experts and authorized commissions.

Underlying the vital necessity of establishing stability and peace in the region, the meeting also expressed concern that Azerbaijan's derailment of initiatives for the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh problem is causing tragedy not only for the sons of Armenians and Azerbaijanis, but also unwittingly for the friendly Iranian people.

The commission also examined a number of problems related to Armenian-Iranian economic ties.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Meets Iranian Plane Crash Investigators

LD3103202394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] A delegation from our country that is investigating the causes for the Iranian C-130 plane crash in Karabakh met Azerbaijani President Gaydar Aliyev Thursday afternoon.

In the meeting Mr. Aliyev expressed sorrow and condolences to the families of the victims of the crash of our country's plane, reports Central News Unit from Baku.

He said: From the very first day of this incident I have kept a close watch on related issues and in a telephone conversation with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani reported on what has taken place.

The Azerbaijani president also told the meeting that all relevant organizations in his country were prepared to provide documents and evidences to the Iranian investigation team regarding the event.

Aliyev Meets CIS Delegation, Excludes Karabakh

NC0104184094 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev today received a delegation from the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly. Our correspondent Ramiz Mesheliheseni reports:

[Begin recording] [Mesheliheseni] After sincerely greeting the delegation headed by Medetkan Sherimkulov, chairman of the Kyrgyzstan Supreme Council, Geydar Aliyev provided detailed information on Armenia's aggressive war against Azerbaijan and on the tragic consequences resulting from it. The Azerbaijani president said that to date Armenia has failed to implement concrete proposals and agreements worked out during the Interparliamentary Assembly meeting in Moscow last September, and that these agreements remained on paper.

It was reported that the agreements worked out by the initiative of the international organizations and Russia for the peaceful resolution of the conflict have been derailed because of the Armenian side's disregard for them. What is more, Armenia is not abiding by any of the four resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council; rather, it is organizing new large-scale offensives against Azerbaijan and is not putting an end to its

policy of occupation. Armenia will pursue its aggressive aims unless punished by international organizations.

Geydar Aliyev also reminded the delegation that it was again Armenia that undermined the agreements reached during the meeting between the chairmen of the Armenian and Azerbaijani parliaments.

As additional proof of Armenian aggression, Aliyev noted that it was Armenians who shot down the Iranian plane over Karabakh.

The Republic's president indicated that he is hopeful of the new peace initiative of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly's delegation.

Medetkan Sherimkulov, who heads the CIS delegation, thanked Aliyev for his detailed information on the situation. He added that their efforts aim at settling the conflict by peaceful means. The delegation proposed that the chairmen of the Azerbaijani and Armenian parliaments meet in Bishkek in the first ten days of May.

The delegation will leave for Yukhari-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] today.

When Medetkan Sherimkulov noted the need for the representatives of the Armenian community of Yukhari-Karabakh to be present at the Bishkek meeting, the Azerbaijani president replied: [Aliyev's statement in Russian omitted]

[Meshelihesenli] Afiaddin Dzhalilov, deputy chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet; Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov; State Adviser Vafa Gulizade; Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Abbasov; Namik Akhundov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Commission on International Ties; Vladimir Kazimirov, Russian special ambassador on the Karabakh problem; and other officials took part in the meeting. [end recording]

Supports Meeting of Azeris, Armenians

LD0104123594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1152 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Sergey Ostanin, and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku April 1 TASS—The idea to hold a meeting of Azeri and Armenian parliament members in Bishkek early this May was backed by Azeri President Geydar Aliyev here today. He announced his decision during a meeting with a delegation of the CIS interparliamentary assembly, which arrived in Baku on Thursday.

At the same time, the head of the Azeri state objected to the participation of Nagorno-Karabakh representatives in this meeting. He said that "Karabakh was part and parcel of Azerbaijan, not a state. The structures, artificially set up in this region during the conflict, have nothing to do with the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly. Aliyev said this question was open for discussion. The president believes that the Bishkek meeting should be well prepared: it is necessary to achieve definite positive changes in the confrontation zone, thereby creating a favourable foundation for talks between the parliament speakers of the two republics.

"In this sense," Aliyev stressed, "I pin great hopes on the peace-making mission of the delegation of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly." He noted that its present composition differed qualitatively from that of the previous delegation, formed last autumn by this supranational CIS institution for the purpose of settling the Armenian-Azeri conflict.

The head of the Azeri state specially noted the need to work out approaches to the settlement of the conflict. In his opinion, the principle "of equal responsibility of both sides" was unacceptable, "because the hostilities are occurring on Azeri territory and a considerable part of the republic is occupied". The Commonwealth of Independent States, the Azeri president stressed, "cannot and must not remain indifferent to the fact that two states that are members of the Commonwealth and signatories of its collective security treaty are actually in a state of war."

In the opinion of Medetkan Shirinkulov, chairman of the Kirghizian [Kyrgyz] Supreme Soviet, who heads the CIS parliamentary delegation, "there are grounds for an important conversation in Bishkek". It could be based on the new Russian draft document for solving the Karabakh problem, forwarded today to the Azeri side by Vladimir Kazimirov, envoy of the Russian president.

The contents of this draft and details of its implementation were discussed behind closed doors. The delegation plans to visit Stepanakert today afternoon.

Delegation Departs for Karabakh

NC0104204594 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Excerpts] According to its schedule, the CIS delegation [led by Medetkan Sherimkulov, chairman of the Kyrgyzstan Supreme Council] was to go to Khankendi [Stepanakert] from Baku, and from there to Yerevan. But for some reason the guests left for Yerevan instead of Khankendi.

[Begin recording] [correspondent Mehmen Qayibov] The delegation left Baku airport for Yerevan. The guests were seen off by Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Afiaddin Dzhalilov, Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Abbasov, and other officials.

Before the delegation's departure we interviewed its members. [passage omitted on Sherimkulov statement in Russian]

[Qayibov] Mr. Afiaddin Dzhalilov, certain changes have been introduced into the delegation's program. What can you say on this?

[Dzhalilov] As Mr. Sherimkulov said [words indistinct]. I want to state that at first the Armenian side accepted our program but later they opposed Mr. Sherimkulov's delegation going to Stepanakert, that is Khankendi, via Agdam. Thus, the Armenians disrupted the program unilaterally. However, Mr. Sherimkulov's personal peace mission is continuing. He will now be flying to Armenia. From there he will go to Tbilisi, then to Karabakh, and then to Baku again at the invitation of Geydar Aliyev. [end recording]

Karabakh May Send Delegation to Negotiations

LD0204183094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Saturday in the village of Berdadzor in Nagorno-Karabakh's Shusha region, the peacemaking mission of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary assembly and representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh authorities discussed the possibility of the participation of this self-proclaimed republic in the meeting between the heads of the Armenian and Azerbaijani parliaments devoted to the settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Interfax received this information from well informed sources in Yerevan, the Armenian capital. The negotiations between the delegations in Berdadzor which is situated at equal distances from Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh were held behind the closed doors and there was no official information about the meeting.

The negotiations between the parliament speakers of two conflicting republics are scheduled for early May in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital.

Our Interfax correspondent who accompanies the mission of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly reports that during the meeting in Berdadzor the parties spoke in favor of the participation of the Nagorno-Karabakh delegation in these talks.

Some time earlier Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev spoke against participation of Nagorno-Karabakh representatives in the negotiations. In his opinion, representatives of the parliaments of the Commonwealth's member-countries must participate in the talks.

On Thursday the peacemaking mission of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly headed by the chairman of the Kyrgyz parliament Meditkan Sherimkulov held negotiations in Baku and Yerevan.

The delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly is expected to return to Moscow in the evening of April 2.

'Peace in Exchange for Territories' Unacceptable

LD0104192594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1520 GMT 1 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] The Russian plan of the settlement in Karabakh envisages a solution of the Armenian-Azeri conflict in stages, a Russian presidential representative at the talks on the settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict Vladimir Kazimirov told journalists in Baku.

He said that first it is planned to carry out a gradual ceasefire and to separate forces. After that it would be possible to start talks on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. "Anyway the principle "peace in exchange for territories" for the Karabakh conflict is unacceptable, the diplomat said.

Kazimirov spoke in favor of sending peacekeeping forces to the region, of which Russian troops could be a part. Only in that case, he said, it would be possible to guarantee a ceasefire and a lasting peace in the conflict zone.

Aliyev Insists on Territorial Integrity, Borders

LD0304163394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1518 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] The settlement of the Karabakh problems must be based on the principle of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders, Azerbaijani President Gaydar Aliyev told the permanent French representatives in the Minsk Group.

He said that these two principles may lay a foundation for talks on ending all combat operations.

Azerbaijan lays no claims on foreign territories, including the territory of Armenia, he said. He also pointed out that Azerbaijan was the victim of Armenian aggression.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov told the French representatives that the status of Nagorno Karabakh might only be discussed after the liberation of the occupied Azerbaijani territories. This problem must become the subject of talks between Karabakh's Azerbaijani and Armenian communities, said Hasanov.

Gasanov Elected Nakhichevan Parliament Speaker

LD0304164094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] On April 2, the parliament of Nakhichevan elected Namik Gasanov to the post of parliament speaker.

Prior to this appointment, Geydar Aliyev had the juridical status of speaker of the Nakhichevan parliament. In October 1993 Aliyev was elected president of Azerbaijan.

Musavat Party Statement on Brawl in Parliament

NC3103211094 Baku TURAN in English 1807 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 31) TURAN—Today Musavat Party made a statement. It says that on March 29 when the session of Milli Majlis [National Assembly] came to an end, the People's Deputy and a member of Musavat Party, Adalyat Ragimli, was beaten unmercifully by the Adviser of President's State Adviser, Neymat Panakhli, in the building of the Parliament.

The essential fact is that Adalyat Ragimli criticized the policy of the current Azeri government and their attempts to shift the blame for the events of January 1990 onto the Popular [People's] Front.

The Deputy was beaten in the presence of the employees of Supreme Soviet, Minister of Internal Affairs and Procurator General of the republic.

The statement of Musavat Party demands to take necessary measures to punish Neymat Panakhli. "Otherwise reconciliation between different political forces in the republic will be impossible".

Georgia

Repatriation Accord May Be Signed With Abkhazia

LD0104160294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian-mediated Georgian-Abkhazian consultations, underway in Moscow, have produced a joint political declaration and a draft agreement on the repatriation of refugees. If nothing happens to interfere, both documents are to be signed next Monday. President Yeltsin's emissary for Abkhazia, Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, made this statement in an exclusive interview with Interfax Friday.

The Georgian delegation is led by a special representative of the Georgian head of state, the Chairman of the Committee on Ethnic Minorities Issues and Human Rights Aleksandr Kavsadze, and the Abkhazian - by a special representative of the chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Andrey Djerghenia.

Pastukhov also said that on Sunday the UN Secretary-General's emissary for Abkhazia Eduard Brunner would be expected to arrive in Moscow to play a role in the negotiating process.

The consultations were very complicated because, said Pastukhov, the delegations made phone calls to their leaders to coordinate positions almost every other minute. But they had made substantial progress and the repatriation agreement would hopefully be signed as early as next Monday.

In addition to Georgia and Abkhazia, Russia and an emissary of the UN High Commissioner on Refugees are to sign the agreement. Russia gave has seen the inflow of many refugees from Abkhazia.

Abkhazia To Sign Settlement Accords in Moscow

LD0304224594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2021 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Vladislav Ardzinba, leader of the Georgia's separatist region of Abkhazia, has authorized his prime minister Sokrat Dzhindzholia to sign with Georgian officials two agreements in Moscow to settle the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

Beslan Bargandzhia, spokesman for Abkhazia's legislature, told Interfax one of the accords would enable all ethnic Georgians who have fled Abkhazia and who have taken no part in hostilities against it to return there. The other document is a declaration on the nonviolent settlement of the conflict.

The documents, to be signed on Monday, were drafted at Georgian-Abkhazian talks in Geneva, Bargandzhia said.

Georgia, Abkhazia Reace Cease-Fire Agreement

LD0304161394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Negotiators from Georgia and its separatist region of Abkhazia have reached a ceasefire agreement, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

He told Interfax and Moscow's Ostankino Television that the negotiators, at talks in Moscow mediated by Russian and U.N. representatives, also hammered out a solution to the refugee problem that conforms to the international law and allows all those who have left their homes to come back, with the exception of those proved guilty of fanning up the conflict.

Some other legal problems, including that of Abkhazia's status, are still unsolved and will be tackled at the next round of talks, Kozyrev said.

A formal Georgian-Abkhazian ceasefire accord is expected to be signed in Moscow in the presence of Russian and U.N. officials on Monday.

Sign Settlement Agreement in Moscow

LD0404070994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0645 GMT 4 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—Georgian and Abkhazian representatives signed in Moscow on Monday an agreement on the return of refugees and a declaration on the settlement of the conflict.

The signing of the documents which lay a solid basis for settling the long-standing armed conflict became possible thanks to the Russian mediation and UN assistance.

Butrus-Ghali, Kozyrev Attend

LD0404075194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0725 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev attended the signing ceremony.

The documents were signed by Aleksandr Kavsadze, a personal envoy of the Georgian leader, by Abkhazian Prime Minister Sokrat Dzhindzholia, as well as by representatives of Russia, the CSCE and of UN High Commissioner on Refugees.

Zatulin Views Agreement

LD0404090894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0803 GMT 4 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchogoleva]

[Text] Sochi April 4 TASS—The Georgian-Abkhaz agreement signed today "contains an unequivocal and clear recognition of Georgia's territorial integrity with guarantees of a broad autonomy for Abkhazia", State Duma Committee Chairman Konstantin Zatulin said in Sochi today.

He explained that for this reason, the agreement suits both sides.

Zatulin recalled that the agreement signed between Georgia and Abkhazia with the participation of the Russian Federation and the United Nations contains two documents: "One is related to the refugee problems, and the other concerns political settlement of the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia".

Zatulin described accords reached in Moscow as "very positive, because any other solution would have threatened war".

Shevardnadze Satisfied With Agreement

LD0404162094 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Video report from Tbilisiby correspondent Ugza Keresilidze, including recording of comments by Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze and Boris Kakubava, leader of the Organization for the Liberation of Abkhazia]

[Text] [Announcer] The Georgian parliament has already expressed its opinion about the documents signed in Moscow between Georgia and Abkhazia.

[Keresilidze] At an unscheduled session today behind closed doors, the Georgian parliament discussed the Abkhazian issue and determined its position on the agreements reached in Moscow with the Abkhazian side, with Russian participation. It was easy to judge the level of passion generated by the issue under examination by looking at the faces of the deputies coming out into the foyer. The parliament has evidently split into two camps—the supporters and opponents of the agreements. During the interval Eduard Shevardnadze appraised the agreement reached in Moscow like this:

[Shevardnadze] I believe that they achieved the maximum which it was necessary to agree at the present stage, and the minimum which is needed for a decision to be taken in the Security Council on the introduction of peacekeeping forces into Abkhazia. Without the introduction of peacekeeping forces there will be no return of refugees. Personally, at the present stage, the agreement suits me. Parliament's opinion is unimportant.

[Keresilidze] The parliamentary opposition has called these agreements—the text of which, incidentally, was not given to the deputies—treason. It demanded that the Georgian delegation be recalled from Moscow and the agreements denounced. Boris Kakubava, leader of the Organization for the Liberation of Abkhazia, the most radically minded as regards the head of state's policy, stated:

[Kakubava] As long as Shevardnadze is the leader at the helm in Georgia, this policy will continue. But this will probably not be for long, because the Georgian people will understand that Shevardnadze is a leader who works only for Russia.

[Keresilidze] Shevardnadze in his turn highly appraised Russia's role in achieving the agreement, and noted the positive influence of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who was present at the talks.

[Shevardnadze] With his presence the secretary general stressed the significance of this stage. I think that we should value the true worth of this. I personally am grateful that he will agree to participate in this process once again.

U.S. Consulate-General Opens in Tbilisi

LD0104134494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1141 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetov]

[Text] Tbilisi April 1 TASS—The Consulate General of the United States of America opened in the Georgian capital on Friday.

Shevardnadze Postpones Visit to Israel

LD0404055994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] According to the CONTACT news agency, the Georgian head of state [Eduard Shevardnadze] met Barukh Birenbaum, Israeli ambassador extraordinary

and plenipotentiary to Georgia [name and title as heard]. Mr. Shevardnadze familiarized the visitor with the current complicated political and economic situation in Georgia, which caused the postponement of his official visit to Israel until a more suitable time. The Israeli ambassador accepted the explanation given by the Georgian head of state with understanding and expressed hope that the visit would take place in the near future.

CSCE Mission Concerned Over South Ossetia

LD0204183194 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] The head of the CSCE mission in Georgia, Aleksandr Tsvetkov, has described the situation in South Ossetia as extremely complicated. Since the deployment of peacekeeping forces a year ago, none of the parties have taken a step to begin a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. He has expressed the mission's concern over the trends of ethnic confrontation that have aroused lately as well as an administrative and political isolation.

The head of the mission named the return of refugees to the places of their permanent residence as one of the most complicated problems. According to the data possessed by the CSCE, these include 11,000 ethnic Ossetian refugees staying in the territory of North Ossetia and 7,000 ethnic Georgians accommodated mainly in the territory of Gori Rayon.

Commenting on the issue of elections to the State Nikhas [supreme soviet] held in Tskhinvali recently, the head of the mission has said that their results have a significance for the determination of internal political arrangement of forces in the region. According to him, until the newly elected body starts to work, it will be difficult to form an opinion whether a policy carried out by Tskhinvali authorities toward the Georgian leadership since the beginning of the conflict is undergoing any changes.

We expect both sides to take actions directed toward the settlement of the conflict, said the head of the CSCE mission. For our part, we can assist in inviting experts of international standards on handling ethnic conflicts and national problems.

Committee Head on 'Extremely Strained' Situation

NC0104211094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1341 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, April 1 (SNARK)—Today Abkhazian forces managed to capture Lata, a settlement in the Kodor Canyon. The sides were combating for it with variable success during over a week. Thus, Abkhazian forces got a real chance to take under their control all the Kodor Canyon, which is the last territory in Abkhazia under Georgian control.

Georgian authorities undertake emergency measures to evacuate the population by helicopters from the Canyon. Jaba Ioseliani, Head of the Georgian Emergency Committee, told SNARK the situation is extremely strained in the Kodor Canyon. "Georgian volunteers are struggling against regular Abkhazian forces, armed to the teeth". The peaceful negotiation he was coordinating failed. Nevertheless, the dialog should be continued, said Mr. Ioseliani.

Sporadic Shooting Reported

LD0204174894 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1516 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The press service of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Georgia reports that fierce clashes near the village of Zemo Lata [eastern Abkhazia] have entered their second week. Last night was relatively peaceful. There was sporadic shooting this morning. The shortage of food and medicine is complicating the position of refugees whose evacuation is still under way.

Attack on Border Villages Launched

LD0404084794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0704 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The Defense Ministry press service reports that Abkhaz separatists have shelled Koki, a village on the left bank of the Enguri river, from a tank, and also launched an attack on Georgian positions near Khurcha. The attack, which was preceded by artillery shelling, was carried out by a large enemy unit using a tank and three APC's. The enemy was repelled by Defense Ministry units. There are no victims on our side.

A dam at the Enguri hydroelectric power station was damaged yesterday, Electricity supplies to Zugdidi rayon have now been restored, however.

Observers Believe Offensive on Sukhumi Possible

LD0204125294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 2 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 2 Apr—Eduard Shevardnadze, as head of Georgia and commander in chief of its Armed Forces, who at the same time assumed the responsibilities of the country's defense minister, held an expanded sitting of the military department in Tbilisi today. According to information, alongside organization and cadre matters involved in military construction, the situation in Abkhazia was discussed.

Local observers—comparing this report with information received from Abkhazian sources today that there is an unusual concentration of Georgian manpower and combat equipment on the Inguri river separating the warring sides—think it is possible that a wide-scale offensive on Sukhumi might be launched in the next few days.

It is not ruled out that the final objective will be to reach the border with Russia along the Psou river and take control of the whole territory of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

Nominations to Cabinet of Ministers Approved

LD0204134894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Summary] The Georgian Parliament chaired by Deputy Speaker Rusudan Beridze resumed its work yesterday. It continued to approve nominations to the Cabinet of Ministers.

The parliament approved the following nominations:

Avtandil Jorbenadze—minister of health;

Murtaz Zankaliani—minister of trade and material supplies;

Aleksandre Chikvaidze - minister of foreign affairs;

Davit Maghradze—minister of culture;

(Vladimer Kereselidze)—minister of industry.

The next sitting of the Georgian Parliament will be held on Monday 4 April.

Shevardnadze Notes Economy's 'Great Potential'

LD0204183594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze declared that the republic has a great potential in order to raise its economy. During the meeting with the mission of the International Monetary Fund, on a visit in Tbilisi, he also said that at present hunger and economy's freezing are the most serious dangers threatening the republic. In Shevardnadze's words, Georgia will fulfill all recommendations of the International Monetary Fund which is expected to grant $60 Mn to Tbilisi.

For his part, Mohamed Shadman Valavi, head of the IMF mission, expressed his opinion saying that the IMF apparently should take care of Georgia in order to provide for its support on the part of industrial states.

Our Interfax correspondents report that during the meeting the parties spoke not only about long-term programs of cooperation but about the ways to solve Georgia's most pressing problems.

Ardzinba Regrets Continued Russian Sanctions

LD0104183494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] The Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Chairman, Vladislav Ardzinba, told Interfax today that the current non-official consultations between representatives of Sukhumi and Tbilisi did not mean the renewal of Georgian-Abkhazian negotiations. Ardzinba said this would require cancellation of the Georgian parliament's resolution on the dismissal of the Abkhazian parliament which had in fact broken the negotiations.

Ardzinba also expressed his regret due to continuing economic sanctions against Abkhazia which had been imposed by Russia. "The Abkhazian population has suffered from the burden of the war and is now restoring the republic. However, it has been deprived of the most necessary things. Primarily, this concerns the mainly urban Russian-speaking population," Ardzinba stressed.

Ardzinba pointed out that Abkhazian society was indignant about the Russian sanctions. "Instead of friendly assistance they are trying to starve us," Ardzinba said. He suggested this was the policy of a certain Russian department which often spoke in defense of Russian-speaking populations living abroad. However, this did not seem to be being put into practice.

Ardzinba stressed that rail transport through Abkhazian territory could be renewed in spite of all difficulties. "We guarantee the security for the movement of both people and goods," he pointed out.

Commenting on the situation in the Kodor Canyon and on the Abkhazian-Georgian border formed by the Inguri River, Ardzinba said it was in general stable. The Georgian military formations which had occupied the village of Lata since autumn 1993 had been forced to retreat to the mountains.

"Abkhazian armed forces control the situation on the Inguri River," Ardzinba emphasized.

The Abkhazian Press and Information Ministry told Interfax that the situation in the Kodor Canyon villages was normalizing.

The UN mission of military observers in Abkhazia visited the villages of Lower Lata and Upper Lata on March 31 from where Georgian troops have been forced. The head of the UN mission said in an interview with Interfax that he would inform the UN Security Council on the last events in the Kodor Canyon.

Anti-Ardzinba Movement Appeals for Help

AU0104133294 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 22 Mar 94 p 1

[Appeal to the Abkhazian people from the movement "For a Peaceful Abkhazia!" issued on 20 March; place not given: "We Will Be Forced To Oppose Ardzinba's Regime With Weapons in Our Hands!"]

[Text] Dear Compatriots!

The representatives of the movement "For a Peaceful Abkhazia!" are appealing to you once again.

Our dear brothers and sisters! History will not forgive our indifference and passivity in the face of the total catastrophe threatening the small Abkhazian nation.

Therefore, we appealed to the UN secretary general, the president of the Russian Federation, and the chairman of the Republic of Georgia Parliament-head of state to adopt the most urgent and cardinal measures for the most speedy peaceful settlement in Abkhazia. In our appeal, we asked them to use all the levers at their disposal to force Ardzinba and his grouping to engage in a constructive dialogue, abandon their sick ambitions of which the Abkhazian people and the representatives of other nations living in Abkhazia have become hostages.

In our appeal, we warned that, if our voice was not heard, we would be forced to oppose the Ardzinba regime with weapons in our hands because the fate of the Abkhazian people was in danger.

Unfortunately, no one, as yet, has responded to our appeal. Therefore, we ask all those who hold dear the fate of our fine motherland Abkhazia and the fate of our children: Help us so that our voice may be heard by the authoritative leaders of international organizations and the heads of states and social movements who could contribute to the matter of the speediest settlement of the conflict.

We appeal once more to all the inhabitants of Abkhazia, to all who, by the will of fate, found themselves on Abkhazian land with weapons in their hands: Enough bloodshed and violence! Let the coming spring of 1994 be a spring of hope and peace!

Our appeal is not a cry of despair; it is a call from the souls of people who realize that we all stand on the edge of the abyss. We are ready to turn our weapons on those politicians who have lost their sense of reality in order to prevent our people from perishing.

Challenges UN, Yeltsin, Shevardnadze

AU0104132894 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 22 Mar 94 p 1

[Appeal "To UN Secretary General Batono (Georgian polite form of address) Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Russian Federation President Batono Boris Yeltsin, Batono Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Parliament-head of state" from the movement "For a Peaceful Abkhazia!" issued on 19 March; place not given: "The Movement 'For a Peaceful Abkhazia' Has Declared War Against Separatism and National Chauvinism! If Our Voice Is Not Heard...!"]

[Text] This appeal comes from representatives of the social movement "For a Peaceful Abkhazia!" On behalf of the inhabitants of Abkhazia who have been driven to despair, we ask you to adopt the most urgent and extreme measures to establish peace and harmony on the long-suffering Abkhazian land. As a result of the criminal policy of the Gudauta adventurists in Abkhazia, genocide is being perpetrated on the entire population of this once prosperous and blessed land. Abkhazians, Georgians, Armenians, and Russians and the representatives of other nationalities are either leaving the Republic or being forcibly banished from it. Out of the population of more than 500,000, little more than 100,000 remain. Unless the United Nations becomes immediately involved and the most cardinal measures are taken, the continuing genocide against the population of Abkhazia could lead to the most irreparable consequences.

We ask you to use all your authority and all the means at your disposal to force the incompetent leaders who have led the republic into a blind alley to take constructive steps aimed at settling the conflict. Ardzinba and his close associates have neither the moral nor the legal right to speak on behalf of the Abkhazian people, on behalf of all the peoples of Abkhazia, because the majority of the electorate is roaming on foreign soil as refugees, forcibly displaced persons, or emigrants.

We ask you to hear the voice of the long-suffering people of Abkhazia, mothers who have lost their sons in a senseless war, old people and children who have been deprived of shelter, and men and workers who are longing for creative labor.

We ask the Russian president, Batoni Yeltsin, to introduce peacekeeping troops into Abkhazia; we believe that Russian troops will be able to bring peace and calm to Abkhazia.

We appeal to Batoni Shevardnadze to ensure public order in Abkhazia by means of Georgian police.

We ask for the right to life, peace, and the happiness of our children. Do not refuse us this. If our voice is not heard, if Ardzinba and his close associates are given, as before, the opportunity to bury all attempts aimed at a peaceful settlement in demagogic ruses, we will be forced to oppose the Ardzinba regime with weapons in our hands. The Abkhazians are a small nation. We have already paid too high a price for the excessive ambitions of these politicians. We will not allow the entire Abkhazian nation to be wiped off the face of the earth.

The movement "For a Peaceful Abkhazia!"

Abkhazian Union Leader Dismisses New Movement

AU0104133494 Tbilisi NOVAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 4 (70) 94 p 1

[Interview with Member of Parliament Boris Kakubava, leader of the Union for the Liberation of Abkhazia, by Eteri Kakabadze; place and date not given: "'I Even Know This Man'"]

[Text]The mass media are currently disseminating statements from the newly formed Abkhazian movement "For a Peaceful Abkhazia" in which there are calls for more radical efforts to settle the conflict in Abkhazia and bring about the return of refugees to their native homes.

It is clearly stated in them that, if politicians are unable to agree, the healthy part of the Abkhazian nation will deal with Ardzinba's hateful regime by force of arms for all the

suffering caused and the tears and blood shed by its people. Unfortunately, there is, as yet, no reliable information regarding the authors of these statements and to what extent they represent an influential force. In any case, Vice Prime Minister Tamaz Nadareishvili said, in his response to these statements, that he pins great hopes on the new movement, believing that a serious opposition to Ardzinba and his henchmen has appeared. Member of Parliament Boris Kakubava, leader of the Union for the Liberation of Abkhazia, holds a different view.

In an exclusive interview to our paper, he stated that, in actual fact, no movement exists and, at best, it is represented by one person and he even knows who this is. Boris Kakubava called the movement "For a Peaceful Abkhazia" a one-man show run by someone preoccupied with immediate interests.

[Kakubava] One can hardly find a dozen Abkhazians today who do not feel intense hostility toward Georgians and Georgia. This hatred has been nurtured in them for decades and, moreover, not without help from the policies being conducted by Shevardnadze. From where could such an entire movement appear? I believe this movement was not created in Sukhumi, but here in Tbilisi with the aim of misleading the people and passing off desire for reality. It is possible this has been done with good intentions in order to pacify the hundreds of thousands of refugees: According to him, a split has already been noticed in Abkhazia and, along with this, the chance has appeared for the refugees to return to their native villages. I believe that the return of Georgians to Abkhazia is in the hands of the Union for the Liberation of Abkhazia, that is to say in our hands. No other forces will help us in this.

[Kakabadze] Do you think that the Geneva negotiations hold any prospects or have they already lost their meaning?

[Kakubava] All Georgia already knows my views regarding these negotiations. I still believe that the series of talks that has already taken place will harm Georgia's interests. It has come about that the peaceful community has learnt that there is an enslaved Georgian country called Abkhazia and that 1 percent of its population has won a war against the remaining 99 percent. We are so impotent that we ourselves cannot stand up for the integrity of our state and are asking anyone for help. We need neither UN troops nor the help of the world community, especially Russia, to get Abkhazia back. We need the world community and the United Nations for one thing only—to protect us from Russia's interference in our internal affairs. This is our main problem; the rest we can do ourselves.

Rebel Tbilisi Police Chief Defies Sacking

AU0104112194 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, April 1 (AFP)—The Tbilisi police chief, opposed to leader Eduard Shevardnadze's nomination of a new interior minister, refused Friday [1 April] to leave his post after being sacked and remained holed up in police headquarters with armed bodyguards.

General David Zaikidze was dismissed late Thursday after he and hundreds of his men occupied the Georgian Parliament for several hours in protest over the appointment of Shota Kviraya as interior minister.

In an interview with AFP, General David Zaikidze denied rumors he had given Shevardnadze three days to sack Kviraya whom he contends is unfit for the job. He said he did not have designs on the post himself.

"I don't want to be interior minister. We simply claim that Kviraya has made many mistakes since he began in the post," Zaikidze said.

Kviraya was officially appointed Thursday but has been acting interior minister for the past three months.

Prior to the interview, there were loud shouts in Zaikidze's office after which a representative of Shevardnadze stormed out.

The rebel police chief was holed up in his office in the city police headquarters in the southern district of Sabordale under tight security.

Zaikidze said he would not go against Shevardnadze and the parliament but said "that they (parliament) must listen to our requests and demands and the head of state must also listen to us and reach a decision".

The atmosphere at police headquarters was tense, with Zaikidze bodyguards all carrying automatic weapons.

The general commands around 7,000 officers in Tbilisi and his aides claim that the city police fully back the general.

Resolution: Incident Aimed To Topple Parliament

LD0104120494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1047 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi April 1 TASS—The Georgian parliament adopted a resolution on Friday concerning an incident which took place in the parliamentary building on Thursday, when the former chief of the Tbilisi police, assisted by his colleagues, attempted to thwart a procedure of endorsing the Georgian defence minister to his post.

The document adopted by the Georgian parliament qualified actions by Mayor-General David Zeikidze as an attempt to topple the parliament by force.

It was pointed out that as a result of clashes, a member of the government and a member of the Georgian leader's staff were seriously injured.

The parliament took into account that criminal proceedings had been instituted on this incident and instructed

the Georgian Interior Ministry to take necessary measures to "restore order in the city police department."

Interior Minister Orders Change in Personnel

LD0104202894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] We present an order by the Georgian interior minister.

In accordance with the decision made at the joint meeting of the collegiums of the Georgian Interior Minister, the Security Service, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Tbilisi Mayor's office I order:

1. Major General Davit Zeikidze, the deputy interior minister and the head of the Main Directorate of Tbilisi Police, be relieved of his post for organizing a raid on the Georgian Supreme Council on 31 March 1994.

2. It will be acknowledged that a legal proceedings have been instituted and the investigation has been started by the Georgian Prosecutor's Office in connection with the above-mentioned event.

3. Major General Demur Mickadze will be appointed head of the Principal Police Department of Tbilisi.

4. Major General Roman Gventsadze will be appointed Georgian deputy interior minister.

[Signed] Shota Kviraia, Interior Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

Zeikidze Replaced

NC0104210894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1051 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, April 1 (SNARK)—Today Georgian Parliament considers the encroachment of the group of armored policemen headed by the Tbilisi Police Chief David Zeikidze into the building of the Parliament as an attempt of pressure—to influence the decision to appoint Shota Kviraya for the position of the Georgian Home Affaires Minister. The only person who expressed his "no" to the appointment was Kartlos Garibashvili, a leader of the democratic faction of the Georgian Parliament.

Meanwhile, Ramin Chelidze, Head of the press-center of the Georgian Parliament, told SNARK today Speaker of the Parliament and his deputies met with Zeikidze and his supporters. Despite the fact that David Zeikidze still speaks for the abolition of the decision, the employees of the Georgian Home Affairs Ministry are ready to go on with their duties.

Today, the mutual session of the Georgian Home Affairs Ministry, the Ministry of National Security, the Tbilisi mayor, the Office of Georgian Public Prosecutor accepted the decision to relieve Zeikidze of his position. Major-General Temur Mikadze has been appointed for this position.

The criminal investigation starts to consider the fact of encroachment.

Zeikidze on Incident, Future

NC0204155694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1003 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, April 2 (SNARK)—"If I wished to carry out a military overthrow, I would have done it", told in his exclusive interview to SNARK today General David Zeikidze, the earlier removed commander of the Tbilisi police.

As already reported, he rushed in the Georgian Parliament building with a group of armed policemen, for which fact he found himself later in "off-side" position.

Zeikidze announced that, instead of thirty, he could have brought the whole three thousand his supporters into the parliament on the day of intrusion, who, as he claimed, back up Eduard Shevardnadze.

"I was removed by the opposition who made Shevardnadze face a deadlock", said the former commander of city police, adding that he will yet utter a sensation.

Zeikidze informed he intends to establish his own party and engage the active political life.

Estonia

Russians Not Considering Shooting Incident Provocation

WS0104124994 Tallinn BNS in Russian 1202 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, 1 April—A soldier of the Russian Border Troops was killed on Friday [1 April] morning on Estonia's border with Pskov Oblast.

As BNS has learned at the Estonian Border Guard Information Department, on 1 April around 0400, three soldiers of the Russian Border Troops detained two unidentified individuals. During an identity control, one of the detained individuals pulled out a gun and opened fire on the soldiers, killing one of them and wounding two others. Following this, the unknown individuals escaped.

The Russian Border Troops put all its reserves on alert, and are currently searching for the criminals. Also participating in the search are local units of the Interior Ministry Troops, the Militia, and the Counterintelligence Service.

On Friday, Estonian Ambassador to Moscow Juri Khan was summoned to the Russian Interior Ministry, where he was given an appeal to the Estonian law enforcement authorities to render help in searching for the criminals. According to Khan, the Russian side believes that the suspects can be hiding on Estonian territory.

Khan has told BNS that the conversation at the Russian Interior Ministry was very "friendly," and that he was assured that the Russian side does not regard the accident as a provocation. According to Khan, the Russian leadership does not have any doubts that the incident was of a criminal nature. Khan also reported that, according to the Russian side, the criminals spoke Russian without a foreign accent.

The press bureau of the Russian Border Troops has neither confirmed, nor denied the report that the criminals spoke fluent Russian, or that they hid on Estonian territory. A press bureau official has also said that the Russian side regards the incident as a criminal offense.

The duty officer at the Pskov Border Troops Unit has refused to reveal to BNS any information about the incident, explaining that everybody is busy searching for the criminals.

Meri, Commander Offer Condolences

LD0104211394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2053 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn, April 2 (TASS)—Estonian President Lennart Meri expressed condolences to the family of the border guard killed at a check point near the town of Pechory in the Pskov region, in a telephone conversation with the Russian Ambassador to Estonia Aleksandr Trofimov on Friday.

According to earlier reports, two unidentified persons approached the check point from the territory of Estonia in the morning on Friday. One of them fired a pistol at Russian border guards, killing one and wounding two. The two attackers made off to Estonia.

At Russia's request, Estonian law-enforcement agencies are undertaking to detain the wrongdoers.

Tarmo Kyuts, Estonian top border guard commander, expressed regret over the incident and was quoted by the local media as saying "there is no evidence that the criminals approached the check point from the Estonian territory".

Border With Russia Closed

LD0204212994 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2055 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Estonia has closed the border with Russia and blocked roads in the vicinity after criminals attacked Russian border guards, killing one and wounding two. This was stated to RIA by Tomas Kyl, director-general of the Estonian Border Service Department. He said that the direction from which the attackers came has not yet been fully established. The chief of the Estonian border service also said that the criminals' appearances are already known and have been circulated along the entire border with Estonia, and border region residents have also been informed.

Guard Killer Possibly Arms Dealer

WS0404093194 Tallinn ETA in English 0710 GMT 4 Apr 94

[From 4 April EESTI SENUMID, PAEVALEHT, pp 1,3,5; "News Bulletin" No. 63/94]

[Text] A Russian border guard was killed and two others injured near the Koidula border checkpoint on April 1 as they attempted to detain two suspected illegal border crossers.

The two were stopped on the Russian side of the border at 03.50 by a three-man patrol, which called a car from the guard station. The criminals unexpectedly opened fire and escaped. The Russian border guard failed to determine whether they crossed the border or remained to the Russian side.

The Estonian border guard was immediately informed of the incident and closed all roads leading inland. The police, the Home Guard and the Defence League were also mobilised in the search.

The Russian Foreign Ministry called Estonian Ambassador Juri Kahn to the ministry and handed over an appeal to the Estonian law enforcement agencies for help in finding the killers. The Russian side is convinced in a

criminal nature of the incident and does not consider it a provocation, Kahn announced.

President Lennart Meri phoned Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Trofimov on April 1 and asked the ambassador to relay his condolences to the family of the killed border guard. The President also assured the Russian Ambassador of Estonia's cooperation in search of the criminals.

The Estonian Interior Ministry considers it possible that the men may have been illegal arms dealers. The pistols used were "TT", an outdated Soviet army pistol. Thousands of pistols of that make have been imported in Estonia recently and the police suspects that the weapons are meant for the Russian underground.

The Defence Police announced of the arrest of a forty-year-old man connected with an attempt to transport a large number of "TT" pistols to Russia.

Russians Said Selling Radioactive Materials

OW0304115994 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0000 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "Aty-Baty" program]

[Text] Yuriy Pikul, general director of the Estonian Security Police, accused Russian military unit commanders deployed in the territory and senior officers at the Tallinn garrison of trading in radioactive materials. He said that at least five highly radioactive articles made of metal were sold to the West from Estonia. He explained how the command of the [place-name indistinct] harbor in Tallinn sold two air-cushion vessels for scrap whose engine components emitted 200 roentgens per hour of radioactivity. Specialists consider a person's unprotected exposure to such a source of radioactivity for three hours to be lethal. After the vessels were scrapped, the metal was sold to Finland. However, several turbine sections containing radioactive cobalt disappeared without a trace.

According to the statement made by Viktor Mikhaylovich Krug, assistant to the chief military procurator, the Russian Federation military procuracy possesses no facts or material concerning the sale by the Northern Group of Forces of components or other items containing radioactive isotopes. For its part, the Russian Federation military procuracy is prepared to begin the immediate investigation of such a situation.

Ministry Seeks Cooperation With Russia on Crime

WS0404093894 Tallinn ETA in English 0710 GMT 4 Apr 94

[From 4 April HOMMIKULEHT, p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 63/94]

[Text] The Estonian Interior Ministry is interested in bilateral cooperation agreements with Russia concerning operations against crime, Interior Minister Heiki Arike said. But he added that Estonia will not sign agreements concerning all CIS states.

Arike added that he had discussed the need for continued negotiations with Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Trofimov recently. He hoped that the talks between ministries will lead to an agreement between the governments.

Russia had so far favoured only agreements signed within the CIS framework and concerning all member states, Arike explained. He said that the Interior Ministry is cooperating efficiently with Finland, Sweden, Germany, Great Britain and Italy.

Defense Forces Chief of Staff To Retire 18 Apr

WS0404092694 Tallinn ETA in English 0710 GMT 4 Apr 94

[From 4 April PAEVALEHT, HOMMIKULEHT, p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 63/94]

[Text] Chief of staff of the Defence Forces GHQ Colonel Ants Laaneots has announced his resignation which is to come in force on April 18. Colonel Arvo Sirel, currently head of the GHQ I section, is to take over. Sirel, 49, has served in the Soviet missile forces and graduated from the artillery academy in Moscow. He was awarded the rank of colonel in December 1993.

Laaneots, 45, has also served in the Soviet Army, graduate of the armoured forces academy in 1981. He commanded a tank regiment and was a chief of staff of an armoured division. He was Soviet military advisor in Ethiopia in 1987-1989, from September 1989 served as military commissar of Tartu. Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar appointed Laaneots government advisor and acting head of the Defence Forces GHQ in 1991.

Colonel Laaneots declined from commenting the reasons of his retirement, adding that he intends to rest first. The last two and a half years have been exhausting, he said.

Chairman of the Riigikogu [parliament] defence commission Rein Helme expressed his regret and added that "an atmosphere of accusations and suspicion has developed at the GHQ, which obstructs normal work."

Eight-Ton Oil Leak Discovered at Russian Site

WS0404100194 Tallinn ETA in English 0710 GMT 4 Apr 94

["News Bulletin" No. 63/94]

[Text] An estimated 8-ton oil leak was discovered in a Russian military site in Viimsi last week. The Russian military refused to provide access to the environment agencies, since the site has not yet been turned over to

the Estonian authorities. The ministry claims that the fuel tanks are being used by a private oil company.

Latvia

Clinton Meeting Said Planned With Baltic Leaders

WS0404095894 Tallinn ETA in English 0710 GMT 4 Apr 94

["News Bulletin" No. 63/94]

[Text] A meeting of the Baltic and the U.S. Presidents is intended for 1994, the chancellery of Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis announced.

Appointment of Attache 'Significant Step'

LD0104221794 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Today, a Russian military attache was accredited at the Ministry of Defense. His name is Vladimir Konayev, and he is a Russian army captain.

Latvian Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis described the occasion as a significant step towards the normalizing of relations between Latvia and Russia. Russian Ambassador to Latvia Aleksandr Rannikh agreed with the Latvian defense minister and said that the new attache would help the Russian Embassy in handling different questions related to cooperation between Latvian and Russian Defense Ministries.

The attache's activities will not be directly connected with the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia, but he is going to involve the embassy in solving of the problem connected with the pullout.

Konayev, born in 1931, has been on service since 1958. Since May 1993 he was performing the duties of military and political counsellor at the Russian Embassy to Latvia.

Withdrawal Office Releases Data on Troops

WS0104155694 Riga DIENA in Latvian 25 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Janis Kulmanis: "Approximately 7,000 Russian Soldiers Remain in Latvia"]

[Text] Riga, 24 Mar—According to the Bureau for Russian Army Withdrawal Control, there are currently some 7,000 military personnel, grouped into 190 military units, still stationed in Latvia. The units are located at 242 sites and facilities. There are 827 trucks belonging to the Northwestern Army Group, which are currently assigned to economic enterprises. At the ammunition depots in Cekule, there are 60 freight cars filled with explosives, in Garkalne—300.

In reply to a question from DIENA at a press conference held by the Democratic Party on Wednesday [23 March], Ilgonis Upmalis, chief of the Bureau for Army Withdrawal Control, expressed his anxiety over Russia having not yet submitted a timetable for full withdrawal of its troops, which makes it impossible to establish commissions to assume control over military facilities. Moreover, the agreement, which was initialed last week, foresees that the timetable should be confirmed by both sides. I. Upmalis stated that the commander of the Northwestern Army Group has been asked many times to at least show the Latvians the mentioned timetable, but each time the answer is negative. As DIENA has already reported, Russian Ambassador to Latvia Aleksandr Rannih had affirmed to Latvian Foreign Affairs Minister Georgs Andrejevs that the timetable is ready, but cannot be supplied before the agreement is signed.

I. Upmalis reported that approximately 60 freight cars are being withdrawn each month from the ammunition depot at Garkalne, so now is the latest time possible for the agreement to be implemented, for otherwise it will be impossible to remove 300 freight cars full of ammunition by 31 August 1994.

The Bureau for Army Withdrawal Control has calculated that Russian Army units still stationed in Latvia owe a combined debt of 9,865,031 lats for unpaid taxes and services already rendered.

Cabinet Gives Additional Rights for Police

WS0104152694 Riga DIENA in Latvian 23 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Anita Smolenska: "Cabinet of Ministers Proposes Changes in the Police Law"]

[Text] Riga, 22 Mar— During its session today, the Cabinet of Ministers has accepted changes in the law "On Police," granting police the right "to search, under special circumstances and with well-founded suspicions, means of transportation, their drivers and passengers, with the aim of finding and confiscating guns and explosive materials."

As is known, the Cabinet of Ministers already once granted such powers to the police. It was done during the Saeima's [parliament] Christmas break, when the Cabinet of Ministers took advantage of Article 81 of the Satversme [Constitution] permitting the government to make decisions under the rule of law. The Saeima annulled this law when it returned, on the basis of a special decision, according to recommendations from both the Juridical and the Defense and Internal Affairs Commissions. At present, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to conduct the changes in ordinary legislative fashion. "During discussions in the Saeima, the government was told that the rejection was of a formal nature rather than an essential character," Minister of Special Tasks Edvins Inkens stated at a press briefing today. "Information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs proves that from the moment the police lost these rights, criminals have become more impudent."

The changes in the law, which were adopted today, also foresee that the police will be obliged to take care of people who have found themselves in a state of helplessness due to lack of means and housing, by bringing them to the institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The police will be responsible for them. As E. Inkens explained, this provision refers to beggars and homeless people.

Faction Proposes Popular Referendum on Skrunda

WS0104155794 Riga DIENA in Latvian 22 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Sanita Upleja: " 'Fatherland and Freedom' Submits Draft Law for a Popular Referendum on Skrunda"]

[Text] Riga, 21 March—The Saeima [parliament] faction "Fatherland and Freedom" has submitted a draft law on organizing a popular referendum on the issue of the continued operation of the Russian military facility—Skrunda radar station—on Latvian territory.

"Fatherland and Freedom" has drafted this law in light of its belief that the final decision on the continued operation of the Skrunda radar station after 31 August 1994 should be made by the people of Latvia, and that the signing of the agreement with Russia should be delayed until the results of the referendum are calculated.

The draft law presented by "Fatherland and Freedom" says that the referendum should be held on 29 May, at the same time as local government elections, and that all eligible Latvian citizens should participate. During the referendum, voters would answer the question: Do you agree or disagree with the continued operation of the Skrunda radar station after 31 August 1994?

After the referendum, depending on the results, the Saeima will decide whether or not to conclude the agreement with Russia on the functioning of the Skrunda radar station, the draft law envisions. It also says that the decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers on concluding the agreement with Russia, which provide for the Skrunda station to continue operations past 31 August 1994, are not valid.

The faction asked to include this issue on the agenda of the next plenary session, but the Presidium of the Saeima decided to pass it in the usual procedure to the Juridical Commission, which will prepare the draft law for examination at the plenary session. On Thursday [24 March], the deputies will have to make a decision as to whether the draft law will be rejected or passed to the Juridical Commission. A special law is necessary because the Constitution does not provide for the holding of popular referendums on issues related to international agreements.

Lithuania

EU 'Hails' Conclusion of Treaty With Poland

WS0104200894 Vilnius ELTA in English 1649 GMT 1 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 470]

[Text] Vilnius, April 1, ELTA—European Union [EU] hails the initialing of the agreement on friendship and cooperation between Lithuania and Poland.

European Union expressed hopes that this agreement would be a great contribution to the stability in the whole region, corresponding the EU efforts to realize the European stability pact.

EU hails the efforts to open a new page in the history of the both countries.

This act of showing mutual trust will be useful for both countries, which chose the way of closer cooperation with the European political and economic structures.

Italian Minister on Cooperation With Poland

WS0104104694 Vilnius ELTA in English 0144 GMT 1 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 469]

[Text] Vilnius, March 31, ELTA—The Minister of Foreign Affairs Beniamino Andreatta, in his capacity as Chairman of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, warmly welcomes the positive completion of the negotiation for the agreement of friendship and cooperation between Lithuania and Poland and the subsequent initialling of the text.

The agreement is an example of how it is possible to overcome the incomprehensions of the past in a frame of cooperation and in European spirit, in order to provide the bilateral relations between the neighbouring countries with a new positive dimension.

Therefore, the agreement meets fully the fundamental principles of the CSCE and represents an important contribution to security and stability in the whole region.

President Receives Letter From Kravchuk

WS0104200794 Vilnius ELTA in English 1649 GMT 1 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 470]

[Text] Vilnius, April 1, ELTA—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas received a letter from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk on Friday [1 April], presidential spokesman told ELTA.

In the letter Kravchuk expressed his thanks for the approval of the Ukrainian foreign policy and appreciation of Ukraine's role in achieving stability and security

in Europe. This appreciation was reflected in the statement signed by the Baltic presidents in Palanga on March 25.

Kravchuk believes that the Ukrainian-Lithuanian relations has great prospects and that they will be based on partnership and cooperation in order to achieve stability and security in Europe as well as in the whole world.

Russian Visa Restrictions To Apply From 28 Apr

WS0104201194 Vilnius ELTA in English 1649 GMT 1 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 470]

[Text] Vilnius, April 1, ELTA—Lithuanian Foreign Ministry received a note from Russian embassy that visa regulations will be introduced for Lithuanian citizens on entering the territory of Russia from April 28.

It was informed in the note that the citizens of the former USSR who permanently live in Lithuania, but do not have the citizenship of Lithuania, Russia or any other country will be able to enter Russia without a visa until February 6, 1995.

Minister Leaves National Security Committee

WS0104115594 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 26 Mar 94 No. 59 p 4

[Report attributed to BNS: "L. Linkevicius Withdraws From Seimas National Security Committee"]

[Text] National Defense Minister L. Linkevicius has stated that he considers his further presence in the Seimas [parliament] National Security Committee "unnecessary." In his application to Seimas Chairman C. Jursenas and J. Karosas, leader of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party faction, the minister requests to be removed from the list of committee members and expresses the desire to return to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

L. Linkevicius said in an interview with a BNS correspondent that he did not approve of the committee's work methods and the understanding of its functions in many cases. The minister thinks that the interpretation of the principle of parliamentary control is not always correct in Lithuania. "This is not leading someone by the hand and adopting decisions for the executive sector," said the minister. He admitted that he himself had a chance to experience such deputies' ambitions.

Concerning his desire to return to the Foreign Affairs Committee, in the minister's opinion, his work at the National Defense Ministry is closely linked with foreign policy.

Deputy Defense Minister Vasiliauskas Resigns

WS0104200994 Vilnius ELTA in English 1649 GMT 1 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 470]

[Text] Vilnius, April 1, ELTA—Lithuanian Deputy Defence Minister Sarunas Vasiliauskas was dismissed from his post at his own will. He had occupied this post since the establishment of the ministry and had been responsible for the ministry budget and provisions.

According to Vasiliauskas, no disagreements had been between him and the former and present ministers. "I could not do my job very good with such small sums of money the ministry had," Vasiliauskas told ELTA.

Last year, for example, the ministry was allotted 131 million litas to maintain the people. The only way out, according to Vasiliauskas, was to diminish the defence system.

Vasiliauskas admitted that he did not envy the one who would occupy his former post. Vasiliauskas is going to have a private job.